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THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

FREE-CHURCH PRINCIPLES.

The public meeting held at Plymouth, under the auspices of the Congregational Union, "in favour of Free-Church Principles," marks an advanced stage of the movement the ultimate object of which is to settle the relations of the civil authority to religious institutions on the basis of disestablishment and disendowment. As no resolutions were submitted, except the customary one of thanks to the chair, the meeting can hardly be said to have pledged itself to the sentiments propounded and enforced by the several speakers. Nor was it necessary it should have done so. The audience, it may be presumed, although consisting in the main of Congregationalists by profession, comprised a goodly number of individuals who did not belong to that body; and as the assembly was not convened with a view to action, but to the exposition of those truths which constitute the ground upon which Free Churches stand in common, it would have been inexpedient, not to say unfair, to proceed to a formal vote, which might either have necessitated personal protests, or have seemed to commit some of the hearers to conclusions in which they were unable to concur. But the tone of the meeting throughout quite sufficiently indicated its general and hearty acceptance of the positions taken up by the speakers. An identity of conviction and feeling appears to have swayed the platform and the body of the assembly, and no room was left for doubt as to what was the attitude of the meeting in relation to the great politico-ecclesiastical system to which "Free Church Principles" are essentially opposed.

There was something that denoted consciousness of quiet strength in the very reticence of the speakers, and in the—we will not say tolerant, for we dislike the word in reference to ecclesiastical differences—Christian candour and courtesy exhibited towards Conformists. We say this, not with the remotest idea of arrogating to Congregationalists any monopoly of these virtues. The Church Congress at Southampton was equally distinguished by the exercise of them. But we deem the fact worth noting, because we are most anxious that the great work which has to be done, and which, we may add, is already in a rapid process of accomplishment, should be prosecuted to its close with the utmost tenderness towards the sympathies and even the prejudices of the devoted members of that Church which will be most immediately affected by it. It will be impossible to achieve the separation of the Establishment from the close connection it has so long maintained with the Civil Power, or to depose it from the political ascendancy its members have been wont to regard as its unquestionable right, without inflicting on them considerable, and, in some instances, indescribable pain. Not only will they contemplate the change we are seeking to legalise as a humiliation to themselves and their Church, but many of them, for want of broader views and deeper reflection, will regard it as "a heavy blow and sore discouragement" in respect of the Christian religion itself. We have no right, perhaps, to be surprised at this, strange and even absurd as it may appear to us. We have not had their training. We are not affected by their associations. The premises from which they draw their conclusions we have been taught to look upon as fallacies. Nor, let it be added, have we been deeply, or publicly, committed, as many of them perhaps have been, to pretensions which the course of events is perpetually undermining. The question we have in hand comes home closer to their personal preferences and interests than to ours; for, whilst our object is in no sense denominational, it cannot be reached without sensibly altering their denominational position.

These considerations, and a score of others of like nature, show the desirableness of urging our suit upon the constituencies and the Legislature with as little acerbity of feeling and manner as possible. We do not regret, therefore—quite the contrary—that this duty was enforced with striking earnestness at Plymouth. It is not only a sign that the opposing parties are coming to close quarters, but an augury, we hope, that the collision which must ensue, instead of deteriorating, will rather develope, the higher qualities of Christian character.

We must note another feature of the Plymouth meeting which, in our judgment, indicates advanced progress. There was no going back, for there was no necessity to go back, to those phases of the controversy which used to be regarded as all important. The theories on which a Church Establishment has been defended have been more in number than we care to enumerate. One by one they have all disappeared. Facts have destroyed them. The question has at length resolved itself into one of expediency to be determined by results. The Church of England does not spiritually educate or guide the whole people of the country, if indeed, by any stretch of assumption, it can be said to exercise its functions over one-half of them. It preserves neither unanimity nor uniformity. It is torn by dissensions. It has long ceased to uphold discipline. It abides not by its own standards. It is full of innovations, both of doctrine and of practice. It answers no one of the purposes for which it was allied with, and endowed by, the State; and with a professed view to which it surrendered its freedom of action. No one with sincere desires to promote religion, would think for a moment of making the Church a State Church, if the thing were now waiting to be done. It *is*, because it *has been*. Its life is in the past. Like an ancient tree, all the roots of which have died away, it stands but does not grow. Parasites may climb over and, in some sense, adorn it, but add nothing to its inherent strength. The logic of the question is now out of date. The Establishment has no *raison d'être* but its age, and the sentimental associations which twine about its venerable trunk. Hence, the subject requires to be dealt with before the public far more as a movement and less as a controversy than used to be the case—and silence on the dead aspects of it is more eloquent than speech.

For this reason, among others, the work of exposition, both as it relates positively to Free-Church Principles, and negatively to the Church Establishment, should partake more largely of persuasion to duty, than even of elucidation by argument—or, at any rate, the former should be made to pull abreast with the latter. We can hardly say that Congregationalists, as a body, have generally treated the matter in that light. That they have been gradually opening their eyes to it, the records of their Union meetings will show. Still, there is room for improvement. They regard the Civil Establishment of Christianity as a system condemned by the genius of Christianity itself, and as operating perniciously upon the spiritual vitality and the growth of the Churches which represent it. They come, therefore, under a serious responsibility, not so much to the interests of their own denomination, as to those of religion itself. This is the duty which should be earnestly and lovingly pressed upon their consciences. They must be stirred to action, as well as enlightened by teaching. They must do as well as know. They are getting to learn this, and to heed the lesson. If the meeting at Plymouth shall have conduced to impress it more deeply on the hearts of those who attended it, or who may read the report of it, it will have been held to good purpose.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

In the "General Preface" to a collected edition of his works, Mr. Disraeli has referred to his earlier as well as his later theories of the English Established Church. When he wrote his first novels his theory was this:—

> National institutions were the ramparts of the multitude against large estates exercising political power derived from a limited class. The Church was in theory, and once it had been in practice, the spiritual and intellectual trainer of the people. The privileges of the multitude and the prerogatives of the Sovereign had grown up together, and together they had waned. Under the plea of Liberalism, all the institutions which were the bulwarks of the multitude had been sapped and weakened, and nothing had been substituted for them. The people were without education, and, relatively to the advance of science and the comfort of the superior classes, their condition had deteriorated, and their physical quality as a race was threatened. Those who in theory were the national party, and who sheltered themselves under the institutions of the country against the oligarchy, had, both by a misconception and a neglect of their duties, become, and justly become, odious; while the oligarchy, who had mainly founded themselves on the plunder of the popular estate, either in the shape of the possessions of the Church or the domains of the Crown, had by the patronage of certain general principles which they only meagrely applied, assumed, and to a certain degree acquired, the character of a popular party. But no party was national; one was exclusive and odious, and the other liberal and cosmopolitan.

This is rather concentrated Disraelism, but the substance of it appears to be that the aristocracy had used the Church for its own purposes—which is undoubted historical truth—and that therefore the Church had ceased to be "the spiritual and intellectual trainer of the people." So far Mr. Disraeli's juvenile theory corresponds pretty well with facts. He proceeds from this to an ideal theory, which is, or was, "to change back the oligarchy into a generous aristocracy round a real throne, to infuse life and

vigour into the Church as the trainer of the nation by the revival of Convocation, then dumb, on a wide basis, and not, as has been since done, in the shape of a priestly section." This early ideal has not, of course, been realised. We come, therefore, to a later ideal, that of something like middle age. Mr. Disraeli himself interprets his own "Sybil," published in 1845, in the following language:—

In recognising the Church as a powerful agent in the previous development of England, and possibly the most efficient means of that renovation of the national spirit which was desired, it seemed to me that the time had arrived when it became my duty to ascend to the origin of that great ecclesiastical corporation, and consider the position of the descendants of that race who had been the founders of Christianity. Some of the great truths of ethnology were necessarily involved in such discussions. Familiar as we all are now with such themes, the House of Israel being now freed from the barbarism of mediæval misconception, and judged, like all other races, by their contributions to the existing sum of human welfare, and the general influence of race on human action being universally recognised as the key of history, the difficulty and hazard of touching for the first time on such topics cannot now be easily appreciated. But public opinion recognised both the truth and sincerity of these views, and, with its sanction, in "Tancred; or, the New Crusade," the third portion of the trilogy, I completed their development.

He further says—and we need not apologise for the length of the quotation,—

The writer and those who acted with him looked, then, upon the Anglican Church as a main machinery by which these results might be realised. There were few great things left in England, and the Church was one. Nor do I now doubt that if, a quarter of a century ago, there had arisen a Churchman equal to the occasion, the position of ecclesiastical affairs in this country would have been very different from that which they now occupy. But these great matters fell into the hands of monks and schoolmen; and little more than a year after the publication of "Coningsby," the secession of Dr. Newman dealt a blow to the Church of England under which it still reels. That extraordinary event has been "apologised" for, but has never been explained. It was a mistake and a misfortune. The tradition of the Anglican Church was powerful. Resting on the Church of Jerusalem, modified by the divine school of Galilee, it would have found that rock of truth which Providence, by the instrumentality of the Semitic race, had promised to St. Peter. Instead of that, the seceders sought refuge in mediæval superstitions, which are generally only the embodiments of pagan ceremonies and creeds.

It cannot be denied that the aspect of the world and this country, to those who have faith in the spiritual nature of man, is at this time dark and distressful. They listen to doubts, and even denials, of an active Providence; what is styled materialism is in the ascendant. To those who believe that an atheistical society, though it may be polished and amiable, involves the seeds of anarchy, the prospect is full of gloom.

This disturbance in the mind of nations has been occasioned by two causes,—firstly, by the powerful assault on the divinity of the Semitic literature by the Germans; and, secondly, by recent discoveries of science, which are hastily supposed to be inconsistent with our long-received convictions as to the relations between the Creator and the created.

One of the consequences of the Divine Government of this world, which has ordained that the sacred purposes should be effected by the instrumentality of various human races, must be occasionally a jealous discontent with the revelation entrusted to a particular family. But there is no reason to believe that the Teutonic rebellion of this century against the Divine truths entrusted to the Semites will ultimately meet with more success that the Celtic insurrection of the preceding age. Both have been sustained by the highest intellectual gifts that human nature has ever displayed; but when the tumult subsides, the Divine truths are found to be not less prevalent than before, and simply because they are Divine. Man brings to the study of the oracles more learning and more criticism than of yore; and it is well that it should be so. The documents will yet bear a greater amount both of erudition and examination than they have received; but the Word of God is eternal, and will survive the spheres.

There is just a little more of this sort of writing which we need not quote, and which it is far from our intention to ridicule. Mr. Disraeli treats the Church question in this paragraph with a reserve of English, but with an openness of what he would term Semitic intellect. A good many readers may feel disposed to ask of what use is a Semitic judgment—supposing it to be *real* Semitic—upon the practical question of the English Church. We regret to state that we cannot say. On that, it appears to us, we get next to no judgment at all. We have very clever Semitic clouding, but we fail to see what the clouds do but to obscure the light from the sun. In this instance we should judge the clouds are used with a purpose. Mr. Disraeli can speak in plain enough English when he chooses; that he has not done so now must be owing to the suggestive circumstance that he would rather not speak with plainness. We still, therefore, wait for his opinion of the Established Church in 1870.

It is refreshing to find, in contrast to Mr. Disraeli, an outspoken man who says exactly what he thinks, and possibly risks a great deal by doing so. Mr. White, the senior member for Brighton, delivered to his constituents, on Wednesday last, a lecture on the Kingdom of Italy. It was a lecture abounding in new information, animated by a thorough liberal spirit, well constructed, well delivered, and we are glad to report from the *Brighton Daily News*, well received. In the course of his lecture, Mr. White referred to the ecclesiastical condition of Italy. He said—we quote his words—that, despite the Siccardi law, which annihilated the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts and the special privileges of the clergy, as well as the enactment of 1866, by which all religious corporations were abolished, and their funds devoted to the State, Italy had now forty-five archbishops and 198 bishops, and at the present time, irrespective of Rome, the proportion of priests to the general population was still as high as seven per thousand. The priests had the control of education, and 600,000*l.* was devoted for educational purposes. The result is that out of twenty-two millions of souls, seventeen millions could neither read nor write. To us this is not very astonishing. The astonishing thing is that the priests should have allowed anybody to read and write, for the first reader would be sure to be the first heretic. Afterwards Mr. White referred to the connection of Church and State in Italy. We have quoted what he has said upon this subject. It is all right, but we are glad that a man possessed of so much English common sense as Mr. White can so read the signs of the times.

Church Conferences are being held with almost suspicious frequency. What is the matter? Are Churchmen afraid of disestablishment? Do they feel, at last, obliged to face the probable or possible future? Whatever may be the feeling which suggests these gatherings, certain it is that they are being held with unwonted frequency. There has been a conference at Wakefield, presided over by the Bishop of Ripon, at which the questions of Church endowments, Sunday-schools, the work of the Church, and cognate matters were discussed. There have been conferences elsewhere, and bishops' visitations one after another. At a Church Conference at Leeds, the subject of education was mainly discussed. At Richmond, in Yorkshire, the triennial visitation of the Bishop of Ripon has commenced. Here the Bishop (Dr. Bickersteth) spoke, we are told, "on the relations of the Church to the people, and few relations had a deeper interest. Upon them it was more than probable that the future existence of the Church as an Establishment depended. Signs were not wanting that an attempt would be made to disestablish the Church of England. From whatever quarter the attack might come, if the Church of England was to weather the storm, if she was to repel the assault, it would not be by relying on her apostolic constitution, nor on the *prestige* of her great antiquity and social position, nor upon her resources of intellectual power or of material wealth, nor even upon the soundness of her creeds, nor the unrivalled excellence of her formularies, but her strength would lie in the proof she could give that she had accomplished her mission as witness for the Truth in the hold which she had gained, or might yet gain, on the reverence and affection of the people." No men need more encouragement than Evangelical bishops like Dr. Bickersteth. But will Dr. Bickersteth say what is the "Truth" for which the Church of England contends? Is it the truth according to the Evangelicals, the Tractarians, the Ritualists, or the Broad Church? What *is* the Truth according to the Established Church? However, these meetings, of which we have noticed only a few, are a sign of the times. We are glad to find that the Church is, at least, thinking of what it may be necessary to do.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

At a Conference with the Southampton supporters of the Liberation Society, on the 18th inst., Mr. Carvell Williams stated that it had been suggested by some members of the Church of England resident in Southampton—some of them clergymen—who had become converts to the principle of disestablishment, that the Society should hold a public meeting in the town during the sittings of the Church Congress, and had promised their co-operation. The Committee had declined doing so, thinking that it would be ungracious to seem to put itself in a position of antagonism to a body which had not acted antagonistically to the Society. It would have been ungrateful, also, for every Church Congress had helped the Society by means of the facts and the acknowledgments with which it had supplied them. Commenting on the Congress proceedings of last week, Mr. Williams said that the brotherly feeling which it displayed towards Nonconformists had been most gratifying, and he hoped that it would hasten the time when they would not be obliged to shake hands with each other over a wall of partition, as they were now obliged to do. Another hopeful fact was the increasing preparedness of Episcopalians for the disestablishment, which the discerning men among them admitted to be probable, if not inevitable. Their difficulties were leading them to cultivate a greater spirit of unity, as well as to promote the practical efficiency of their Church, and their success in those respects would serve to advance, and not hinder, the work of the Liberation Society. The disorganisation of the Church was not to be desired; for, just as Germany would find it difficult to make peace with France if anarchy prevailed in the conquered country, would Episcopalians dread disestablishment if they supposed that it would lead to confusion and disintegration.

The meeting—which was presided over by W. Lankester, Esq., J.P., expressed its cordial approval of the Liberation Society's proposed course of action; reconstituted the Local Committee, and considered its future proceedings.

DISSENTERS AND THE EDUCATION ACT.

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Central Nonconformist Committee on the Education Act, was held on Wednesday, at the Lecture Room connected with Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham. Mr. J. Chamberlain presided; and amongst those present were the Revs. R. W. Dale and H. W. Crosskey, and Mr. Schnadhorst, hon. secretaries; Revs. W. Nicholson (agent of the Liberation Society), C. Vince, J. Harrison, W. W. Jubb (Oldbury), B. Bird, G. B. Johnson, and H. W. Holland; Aldermen Manton and Holland; Councillors Rollason, B. Smith, Perkins, J. Collings, Webster, and Harris; and Messrs. J. S. Wright, A. Field, J. A. Partridge, G. Ingall, McClelland, J. C. Woodhill, and A. Gosling. Letters of apology for non-attendance had been received from the Rev. H. J. Heathcote, and Messrs. W. Middlemore, T. Kenrick, G. Dawson, J. A. Cooper, and Mander (Wolverhampton).

Mr. Schnadhorst (one of the secretaries) read a report, giving an outline of the proceedings of the committee since their formation at a public meeting in Birmingham. The object of the movement was to protest—"1. Against the power given to local boards to levy a rate for the support of schools in which they could determine that the religious teaching should be denominational. 2. Against the conscience clause, which required a Nonconformist to claim religious toleration in schools supported by national money. 3. Against the permissive arrangement for religious inspection." Circulars were sent to several thousand Nonconformist ministers, and a very extensive correspondence was carried on, chiefly with the ministers of country churches, which amply sustained the anticipation which had been formed as to the probable effects of the bill in the rural districts. The committee endeavoured te arouse the country in favour of Mr. Dixon's amendment on the second reading of Mr. Forster's bill, and were the means of originating the unique protest addressed to Mr. Gladstone by 5,173 ministers of various denominations, objecting to various provisions of the bill. The report detailed the further steps made by the committee during the progress of the bill with a view to make it more acceptable to Nonconformists, which were continued till further opposition became useless.

Mr. Dale read the abstract of accounts, which showed that the receipts had been 548*l.* 19s., and the disbursements 638*l.* 5s. 5d., leaving a balance of 82*l.* 6s. 5d. against the committee.

The Chairman proposed that the report and accounts be received, adopted, and printed, and circulated amongst the donors and subscribers. Mr. Woodhill seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Chairman then proposed the following resolution:—

"That the present organisation of the Central Nonconformists' Committee be maintained and extended for the following objects:—First—1. To obtain the amendment of those provisions in the Education Bill of last session which violate the principles of religious liberty, by enabling the majority in any district to tax the community at large for the propagation of the opinions of a sect. 2. To secure the refusal of national aid to new denominational schools, and its gradual withdrawal from all schools under denominational management. 3. To prevent the development of the denominational system of education in Ireland and Scotland. 4. To resist legislative encroachments on the right of Nonconformists." Second—That the committee be especially charged with the duties of assisting the Nonconformists throughout the country to prevent rate schools from becoming institutions for propagating denominational creeds, and to collect information concerning the practical working of the recent Act in relation to the religious liberties of Nonconformists."

There was no doubt, he said, that the Parliamentary action of the committee had been a failure. In reference to the special object which had occupied the attention of the committee, it had been a failure in two points. In the first place, the Government had succeeded in carrying that very unexpected alteration by which they intended to give an increase to the grants for denominational schools; and, secondly, there still lived on the face of the Act the obnoxious clause by which it was open to School Boards throughout the country to teach, at the expense of all the ratepayers, the sectarian dogmas and doctrines of any one of them. He took it for granted that, if it was desirable to continue this agitation at all, it was desirable that it should be continued with a view to securing the alteration and amendment of those two points, and they were referred to in clauses 1 and 2 in the scheme which he had proposed. Only he would point out that the committee thought that in their previous agitation

they were a little too moderate, and whereas all they then asked for was that there should be no increase of aid to denominational schools, now they asked that all grants of national money for denominational purposes should be gradually withdrawn. (Hear, hear.) In their former agitation they were taunted with inconsistency because of their moderation, but their feeling was that as their organisation was created to deal with a new and temporary state of things, they would be content to leave the past. Now, however, that they were about to give the organisation a wider basis, it seemed desirable to make their action consistent. Moreover, the committee proposed to assist in a movement which had already obtained many supporters in Scotland, and still more in Ireland, to resist any alteration of what was called the mixed system of education. The committee found that no point was more firmly fixed in the minds of the Nonconformists of this country than that it was undesirable to make any change in the direction of denominationalism in Ireland; and they thought that by embracing this object in their scheme they would be strengthening their own hands and fulfilling the desire of their constituents. Lastly, in the fourth clause, the committee took a general power to resist legislative encroachments on the rights of Nonconformists. This was vague, and purposely vague. At the same time, he thought it would not be difficult to lay before the meeting reasons which would justify their assenting to it. The agitation, hitherto, had been purely of a temporary character; now, the proposal was that it should assume a more permament form. (Hear, hear.) That being so, it seemed absurd to have a committee bearing the name of Nonconformist committee, and supposed to represent Nonconformist feeling, without the power to express itself on any great question, that of education alone excepted, in which Nonconformists took an interest. They knew that other questions of very great magnitude would be mooted in the next session of Parliament, and it seemed to the officers and committee to be highly undesirable that they should have no power of expressing their opinions upon such matters. Moreover, by taking such power, it might be possible for the committee, in the course of the agitation, to assist other bodies, and more especially the Liberation Society, which had undertaken a great work, and which the committee would be sorry to leave without sympathy and support. (Cheers.) The interest felt throughout the country in the education question would be increased in geometrical proportion when to the agitation for the removal of the objectionable clauses of the Education Bill, the committee were able to add an agitation for the removal of other obnoxious encroachments on the rights and principles of Nonconformists. The next and last portion of the scheme referred to another most important part of the duties the committee would have to perform. The secretaries had received an immense number of applications from Nonconformists throughout the country, asking for information with reference to the working of the education measure, and especially to the action which Nonconformists, as such, should take to carry the bill into effect with as little violation as possible of Nonconformists' rights. It seemed to the committee desirable to make it a prominent part of the future duty of the committee to give such assistance, and to take all possible means to secure the carrying out of the Act without violation of their privileges. Further, it was most desirable to have some central committee charged with the duty of collecting information, which would assuredly pour in from all parts of the country, as to the working of the Act: for they would be better able to seek amendment of the Act if they were able, at the same time, to press on the attention of the Government a mass of facts showing where the Act had failed. He believed the organisation had done a very important work, and nothing could be more gratifying than the unanimity which had been exhibited by Nonconformists of all shades of opinion in reference to the matters which had been laid before them. He believed the same unanimity would be found in reference to the matters comprised in the scheme now before the meeting. He thought it very important that such an organisation as this should exist, for it would take a place which was at present unoccupied. It would not interfere with the Liberation Society, to which they all wished success, but would be an ally to that association, and not a rival.

Alderman MANTON seconded the resolution. He said they had been defeated, but only for a period, and he thought the lease the Liberal Government had given to keep up the sectarian spirit of the country would turn out to be a short one. It would be the duty of Nonconformists in large towns to watch over the smaller towns, in which little meannesses and acts of bigotry took place of which many persons had no conception. He was deeply pained at the conduct of some men in this town who were strong Protestants, and who would resent any imputation on the genuineness of their Protestantism, who yet, rather than give up their own denominational teaching in schools, were content to give Roman Catholics a new establishment in Ireland. (Mr. Dale: "Hear, hear.") He was satisfied that if the denominational system were carried out in Ireland there would be a far more powerful church establishment there than that which had been abolished; and he thought that if any man might be sorry for the legislation of the last session it was Mr. Gladstone—unless it was Mr. Bright. He believed that if Mr. Bright had been able to be in the Cabinet the Nonconformists would not have had such a defeat.

The Rev. G. B. JOHNSON said he heartily concurred in the general programme, and he regretted that the committee had not seen their way to act with greater broadness and sagacity at the outset, and protest against the existing system. His mind was relieved by the manner in which the Chairman had spoken of the Liberation Society, for he should deprecate nothing more than that any action taken by this committee should appear to be other than in harmony with that society.

The Rev. B. BIRD said that some present had to do with schools immediately connected with Nonconformist places of worship, and it followed that if they agreed to the principle laid down in the paper, they would be relinquishing their own schools. This was a matter that needed to be very carefully and thoroughly discussed. Connected with his own chapel was a school of about 200 children, and there were large Episcopal schools in the neighbourhood. In the event of his school being given up, no doubt the children would be immediately absorbed by the Episcopal schools. He did not think this would be a very great advantage to Nonconformists; they would suffer, and it would only be playing into the hands of the denominational schools.

Mr. DALE said this was a subject which had already come before the secretaries in private communications, and it was one of great interest. In particular districts there were circumstances which made the question extremely perplexing. For instance, there were some strong Nonconformist schools in small villages and country towns, and, if they were abandoned, there would be no probability of securing a school board that would establish undenominational day-schools. The only result of surrendering these schools would be the continuance of the distinctly Episcopal schools already existing, and perhaps the creation of schools under the school boards in which Episcopal dogmas would be taught, though not by means of Episcopal formularies. In such exceptional cases he thought it might be very desirable that Nonconformists should continue to maintain their schools. But his own impression was that the religious congregations of Birmingham ought to make it clearly understood that they were not responsible for the secular education of the people, and that, whatever might be the immediate result of that policy, he thought the remote result would be to inform the public mind, and in so doing to operate well for the special interests of Nonconformity. The school board that would be formed in Birmingham within a very few months would in that case probably ask for the use of the schoolrooms till they could provide them, and would carry on undenominational schools in them; and he would much rather have that than the present system. He did not see that it was the duty of congregations to provide education any more than to maintain the police. If the Government did not provide for the maintenance of a police force, it might be the duty of churches to have yearly collections to keep up an adequate police force. The necessity for the churches to provide education had passed away, and the sooner the congregations in towns like this distinctly affirmed that the secular education of the people was not their business, the better.

Mr. MCCLELAND advocated the complete separation of secular from religious education in Ireland.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS proposed a vote of thanks to the hon. secretaries, the Revs. Messrs. Dale and Crosskey. He spoke in favour of active measures, recommending the tabulating of every conceivable thing in which a Dissenter was at a disadvantage with a Churchman, dead or alive—(laughter)—and requiring candidates at Parliamentary elections to give a promise to vote, if returned, for the removal of these grievances on every opportunity. Mutual concessions became a crime in this case, because it was the handing down of a difficulty to others which they were afraid to deal with.

The Rev. C. VINCE seconded the resolution.

The Rev. H. W. HOLLAND supported it. He showed that the adoption of a denominational system in England necessarily, as a matter of simple justice and equality, committed those who were in favour of it to a denominational system for Ireland. He asked where the opposition to that system could come from? Certainly not from the Manchester Education Union.

The resolution having been passed,

Mr. DALE, in acknowledging it for himself, bore testimony to the effective and zealous service which Mr. Schnadhorst had rendered. It had not been altogether a pleasant task to oppose a Government in which there was a statesman to whom some of them looked with a loyalty and affection and confidence which appeared to them almost indestructible. But, obviously, there were times in political history when they were bound to take a very distinct stand on behalf of their principles, and accept all the consequences; and if a Liberal Government, even with Mr. Gladstone at its head, intended to pursue the kind of policy it pursued last session, it was time that Nonconformists made it clearly understood that that policy would end in the loss of the support which the Liberal party had hitherto received so enthusiastically from them. Mr. Dale then referred to the intimation given by the Government that next session there would be a revision of the Revised Code, so as to increase the grants to denominational schools. He said that with whatever hostility he regarded Mr. Forster's measure, he regarded with still more hostility the proposal to strengthen and perpetuate denominationalism by increasing the grants to it from the public funds; and he hoped they would be able, before the Revised Code was laid on the table of the House of Commons, to make Government feel that Nonconformists generally would offer to any development of the denominational system the most earnest resistance.

The Rev. H. W. CROSSKEY also acknowledged the vote of thanks. He said he believed that Nonconformists were at a great crisis in their history, and that by the extension of denominational grants immense vested interests would be created, to which all that had gone before would be trifling. In a few years they would be told the existing system must have justice done to it, that system being the outgrowth of the present legislation. That policy would be extended to Ireland, where, in consequence of the absence of organisations such as this, and of the ignorance that prevailed, the whole national system had become perverted. It was now to a large extent denominational, and the vested interests of the priesthood interfered with any new proposal. Mr. Crosskey referred with pleasure to the unity that subsisted among Nonconformists on these vital subjects, and expressed his confidence that ultimately they would be relieved of all sectarian restrictions, and that the religious life of the country would be left free to develop itself consistently with individual rights.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE CHURCH AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.

At a meeting of the recent Church Congress at Southampton, a sitting was devoted to the discussion of the relation of the Church to the Nonconformists, which we briefly noticed in our last number. We think it desirable to give a fuller summary of the very interesting discussion which took place on that occasion:—

The Rev. P. GOLDSMITH MEDD read the first paper on the subject chosen for discussion on that afternoon, "Christian Unity—Part II.—What practical steps may be taken towards the reunion of the Nonconformists to the Church?" Practical steps towards any object, the speaker observed, could not have a chance of success unless the minds of men in general were enlarged and given up to the consideration of the matter, and in the matter before them the real practical steps would be, first of all, those which tended to rectify the fundamental conceptions and relations in which Churchmen and their Nonconformist brethren stood. (Hear, hear.) They, of course, would naturally come to those that they considered brethren, orthodox Dissenters, namely, Baptists, Independents, and Wesleyans. (Hear, hear.) The first step was a frank and sincere recognition that these men were brethren in Christ. (Applause.) Once get this step founded, and he believed they would have taken a long stride towards that blessed consummation which the Churchmen and Nonconformists alike most desired. The Church was the mother of all baptized people. They were hers by birthright, too, and notwithstanding any objection concerning matters of human origin, they must be regarded as her children. (Hear, hear.) Notwithstanding that the whole of the Nonconformists as a body were not in that character belonging to the Church, yet they must admit that the individual units are one with the Church. It was impossible to enter into any amount of excuses. God's Holy Spirit worked among them as well as the Church, and to deny it, was to acknowledge sheer ignorance of the facts. (Cheers.) Churchmen had to be on their guard against a sort of implied underlying assumption of their Church being the only perfect one. Any person knowing the Reformed Church, must know that Dissent was to be ascribed, or was largely due, to errors in temper or neglect on the Church's side. What was the state of the English Church when John Wesley was alive, one of the greatest men that ever lived? He was unswerving in his devotion to the Church, and the Church might have gathered in that great harvest but for the dissensions therein. (Hear, hear.) If the Nonconformists treasured hostility towards the Church, it was the duty of the Church not to return that hostility, but bear with them and not take offence. The second practical step was a recognition of, and a determination to do all they could to heal, the division in their own Church. (Loud applause.) The third practical step was prayer, and a feeling that all Christians are still our brethren. There was a want of elasticity which had doomed them to act with uniformity—(cheers)—and by that uniformity they only succeeded in creating and nourishing Dissent, and promoting still further disruption. Another thing they required was, the due place in the Church ministry of a permanent diaconate, and an authoritative explanation should be given, sufficient and ungrudgingly, of all such passages of the Prayer-book which had been shown to be generally not understood. (Hear, hear.) The Church must bear and forbear, live and let live, doing its own work without denouncing others, and then they might succeed in bringing about a unity in the Church. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. JOHN C. RYLE said the question was a most important one, and they would benefit the world at large by such a reunion as that proposed; in fact, the benefit to be derived could hardly be exaggerated. He would come at once to the substance of the subject, and say that the first thing wanted was concession, and that concession on the part of the Church of England. They must be prepared to make large concessions if they wish to gain the Nonconformists. (Hear, hear.) They must be ready to do something, ready to act. They could not expect that the Dissenters would come cap in hand at the first intimation that the Church was willing to receive them. (Hear, hear.) The idea was simply absurd, and they could not blame the Dissenters. If they were not prepared to make these concessions it was waste of time to discuss the reunion question. The concessions required to be made by the Church were her episcopacy, her

liturgy, and her creeds. He would state at the outset that he should never consent to give up the sound doctrines of the Church. (Cheers.) Churchmen, however, could only bring to them the Nonconformists by throwing over her creeds, and going to sea, as it were, without a rudder. He would at once say, "Better remain as we are"—(Hear, hear) —and he did not say this step would meet with the consent of the Dissenters, for long-seated diseases were not easy to cure. (Hear, hear.) The Church should offer increased facilities for Nonconformist ministers to come into the Church of England, and they would get then many Nonconformists who would gladly throw up the voluntary system, and these men, many of them, would be pillars of strength to the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) Then the episcopal part of the Church would have to be given up, and the Church should make a bold effort to reform the Act of Uniformity. (Loud cheers.) The services were too long, and might be shortened and more liberty given in the liturgical part of the service. He should rejoice to see liberty given to any clergyman to omit the Athanasian Creed. (Loud cries of "No, no," and applause.) He had not the least objection to it, but he knew it gave offence to many Christians, and he really thought it did very little good, and a good deal of harm. The baptismal and burial services should be shortened, and "nothing venture, nothing have," they would, he was sure, all be glad to see a relaxation in Church discipline. They wanted more zeal themselves, and ought to ex ite the zeal of the laity. (Hear, hear.) Again more union was wanted in their own church, and then if they got the Bible nearer Churchmen, Churchmen would then get the nearer to one another, and instead of being at a dead look, as at present, they would be united. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. J. Moorhouse also had a paper on this subject. It advocated a reform of the Convocations of the Provinces of Canterbury and York. As now conducted, their debates were weak and comparatively fruitless. To be timid was to be imprudent, to be daring was to be useful and practical. Therefore, he urged the necessity of a thorough reorganisation of Convocation. To put the two Houses of Convocation on a sound basis, and on a footing similar to the two Houses of Parliament, the Lower House should be simply representative. Its members should not sit by virtue of ecclesiastical office. (Hear, hear.) The Upper House should consist of the official and hierarchical element of the Church—of bishops and other dignitaries of the Church. All the legislation of Convocation should be submitted for the approval of the civil power, so as in no contingency to be exposed to the temptation of interfering with the liberty of the subject. (Cheers.) It would be wholesome both for the Church and the State if upon all practical legislation for the Church, the State should have a veto. The paper advocated general reforms, amongst others that the Crown should be deprived of its prerogative in the selection of men to fill the episcopal office, and that patrons of livings should not be permitted to sell and barter those livings, and should in making appointments consult the feelings and opinions of the parishioners rather than their own caprice. (Cheers.)

The Rev. George Body, who was the first to speak on the subject, favoured the hand of fellowship being held out to the Dissenters, with the view of bringing them within the fold of the Church. The first practical effort towards the union of Christians in England was an earnest effort in the cause of evangelisation. Secondly, the Church should more than it now did minister to its souls; and, lastly, it should witness to the sovereignty of Jesus in His own Church.

The Bishop of Peterborough was next announced. He got up, he said, to offer a few words of colder caution than the relaxation of the Church's law, which previous speakers had advocated. While as ardent and sincere a Church reformer as anyone possibly could be, yet a fixed definite Church law he considered the only possible safeguard to liberty. Mr. Ryle had pleaded for liberty to a clergyman to vary and modify the Church Service on getting the sanction of his congregation to do so. As Mr. Ryle said nothing with regard to the consent of the bishop, it might be inferred that he ignored the authority of the bishop entirely. He forgot that his proposition contained the principal element of schism, which would break out immediately the proposition was made, for it was hardly likely that the whole congregation would be of the same mind as their pastor individually happened to be. Then he (the Bishop of Peterborough) strongly opposed the concession to the minister of the right to use or omit at his discretion those portions of public worship which embodied distinct doctrinal teaching. ("Hear, hear," from the right rev. chairman.) Nevertheless, no one with greater intensity than he longed for a reunion of the Church with orthodox Dissenters, who, he regretted to say, were estranged by the laxity in former times of certain Church dignitaries. (Cheers.)

The Bishop Suffragan of Dover did not think there could be any association with the Churches of New and Old Rome till the accretions of superstition, false doctrine, and false doctrine, and false assumptions which attached to them, were swept away by their own hands. Neither did he expect any advance towards union with the Church from the Nonconformists at home, not so much by reason of difference of doctrine, not so much in consequence of the barrier caused by the existence of the Church Catechism and the Athanasian Creed, as through the character of Church authority and Church order.

Mr. Bernerd-Hope, M.P., while he did not oppose change in the attempt to bring about union, yet he cautioned the Church against the sweeping character of the reforms recommended, with respect to one of which, while he did not say the system was not capable of improvement, he begged to remind Mr. Moorhouse that the present priesthood of England had sprung from the system of patronage, and it was unique amongst the priesthoods of the world. (Cheers.)

The Rev. E. M. Plumptre, of King's College, London, strongly urged a relaxation of the penal clauses of the Act of Uniformity.

The Rev. Arthur Bradley (All Saints, Southampton), believed in treating Dissenting ministers with courtesy and even cordiality—if not exactly as brothers, certainly as half-brothers, in ministering to the spiritual wants of the people. If there were those who refrained from recognising them as fellow-ministers, they could surely recognise them as fellow-workers for God. (Hear, hear.) By that means—without prosyletising or touting for custom —it was possible to draw Dissenters into the old Church. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Dalrymple M'Lachlan considered a better effect would ensue from conciliating the personal feeling of Nonconformists rather than by an unreal profession of conformity where diversity existed.

Archdeacon Utterton drew the happiest augury from the kindly spirit displayed in the discussion of this question, for the object of which they all, or most of them, had so much at heart.

The Rev. G. H. Sumner approved not only a courteous bearing towards orthodox Nonconformists, but that they should be treated by clergymen as their parishioners. The Athanasian Creed was a question which cried for inquiry. (No, no.) The clergy he desired should not indulge in excess in Church worship, by which he believed numbers were repelled from entering a church.

Mr. Shipton considered it was necessary to exercise the greatest caution in offering facilities to Dissenters for transferring their membership to the Church.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

MEETING IN FAVOUR OF FREE CHURCH PRINCIPLES.

The public meeting in connection with the Union for the exposition and enforcement of Free Church principles was held on Wednesday week at St. James's Hall, Plymouth, which was crowded in every part. In the absence of Mr. Alfred Rooker, who had not arrived from America, Mr. Alexander Hubbard, the ex-Mayor of Plymouth, was voted to the chair. He was supported by the leading ministers and delegates who were attending the sessions of the Union.

The Chairman, after a brief and cordial address, called on

The Rev. Joseph Fletcher, who commenced by remarking that nowhere had the Congregational Union met with a more cordial or kind entertainment than they had received at Plymouth. The subject which he had been asked to bring before the meeting was entitled, "The Attitude Obligatory on Nonconformists in Relation to the Question of Church and State." That was a very large question, and he must take things for granted, which perhaps might come from the lips of other speakers. He took it for granted, for example, that the Nonconformists of England and Wales were perfectly agreed and one in reference to the question of religious establishments. (Hear, hear.) He did not suppose that there were any present who needed instruction upon that subject, for every position which they had taken up in this country now for so many years led to the inference that they had settled the question at least. They had received a heritage of protest from their forefathers who had gone before them, from the days of the Tudors, from the days of the Stuarts, and also from the days of the House of Hanover, they had continued to receive protests in reference to religion as connected with force and with power. In the early period they protested by suffering; in this period they made their protest in the way of aggression; they were not satisfied that they should enjoy their own civil and religious liberties merely, but they desired that the last vestiges, even the very last relics of anything like force, whether direct or indirect, should be entirely destroyed or swept away from the statute-book of the realm. (Applause.) They based their protest upon Scripture and on the words of their own and only Master, who said, "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's. My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered unto the Jews. But now is my kingdom not from hence," and on reasoning they found no ground for religious establishments, for religion was a matter between the individual conscience and God —(Hear, hear)—and it was contrary, therefore, to the first principles of reason itself that any human Government, by any device whatsoever, should seek to shackle the freedom of men's consciences, or to dictate to them on matters of religion. (Applause.) Then again, he held it to be sound political philosophy that they should seek to get rid of the connection which had existed so long in this country between Church and State, for the constitution of the country might be in other respects of the best kind; it might afford civil liberty to all its subjects; it might open up facilities for intercourse between man and man, community and community, but if by a subtle method it sought to cast round one dominant system of religion its patronage and its favour, then he said that politically speaking it was an injustice. The constitution of a nation was not on its right foundation if it attempted such things, so that on all those grounds they were opposed to religious establishments, and he did not suppose that they so much admired the religious establishment of this country as to consider it an exception in relation to the general principle. (Hear, hear.) If they looked narrowly into that system they would find that it was indeed a growth, but a growth of a most heterogeneous kind. There were elements in it of the most discordant nature, and there were all kinds of inconsistencies banded together, and by what kind of bond? By law! They had nothing to say that night against any individual or persons whatsoever, but they were not going to be fettered in their speech in reference to the system itself, but would speak out boldly and forcibly, and say that the time had come for those who understood on scriptural grounds, on grounds of reason, and on grounds of political philosophy, the injustice of national religious establishments, that they should speak out against the system with all their hearts and with all their souls. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) If they looked into the religious establishment they would find a great many things in it that were remarkable. They knew that there were hundreds and thousands, not only of good men, but of good Churchmen and ministers, according to the light of their own consciences, but then see how they were fettered; see how they had placed themselves under bondage. If they looked at the way in which the whole thing was ordered, they would find that it was a remarkable kind of episcopate. He honoured those bishops who had done their best in the positions which they occupied, but he never could forget the way in which they reached those positions. He considered the *congé d'élire* was the greatest farce that could possibly exist, and he also looked upon it as a species of blasphemy—(Hear, hear)—for as soon as a bishop died or vacated his office there went forth a message from the Premier to the dean and chapter to assemble together and appoint a worthy successor; they were to pray together, and confer together, and they were asked to take counsel of the Almighty in relation to the appointment of a man who had been already appointed. (Laughter.) Now that was a kind of religion which they would not like to see spread over this land. Much as they admired the power and activity of some of the bishops, they could never forget how they received their appointments, and that the very last thing a bishop had to do when he received his office, was to go down on his bended knee before the Queen of this country, and with the Queen's hands in his hands, to make his supplications to her for the temporalities of the See. This was not a system which they were going to encourage in this nineteenth century, and in this advanced age—(applause)—in which they were seeking to liberate their fellow-countrymen, and to get rid of a very great injustice, on whatever class it might bear, and especially those forms of injustice which were a great detriment to religion itself, and which gave the idea to multitudes of the working-men of this country, that the religion of the country, and especially the national religion, was intended to uphold a certain class, to appoint places for certain men and to give them a position of ease. Let them not forget that the country was now enfranchised; that every one was in a certain sense a ruler, and that every man who was enfranchised had a solemn duty bound upon them to act in relation to this question, as well as in relation to all others. (Applause.) He looked upon it that it was a mistake on the part of any man, however religious he might be, to separate himself from a great duty, for he owed a duty to his fellow citizens as well as to his own conscience and to his God, and, therefore, he took it that it was a most religious thing for a Christian man to work, and work hard, in order to place in the House of Commons of this country, men who would represent right and just principles in reference to this as well as to other questions. (Hear, hear.) But it was said by some that the religious establishment of this country was such that if it were disestablished and disendowed it would only give it greater power than it had at present. People said, "See the wealth there is in the hands of those who are associated with the Establishment of this country; look at their livings, look at their glebes, look at their lands, look at their endowments, look at their emoluments, look at the way in which they are banded together; see how all rank and fashion flow into their churches, gather round them, and give them support. Separate that Church from the State, and then you will give it such a power that it will very speedily absorb all other denominations, and the end will be worse than the beginning." But his opinion with regard to that view of the matter was, that it was a great mistake, because if they looked at the elements on which this religious establishment was based, they would find that they were religious, social, and also political elements. An Act of Uniformity was once passed, for the purpose of making the whole Church of England one, that its ministers might speak with one mouth and utter one voice, so that the whole people might be brought under an uniform teaching. That was the theory, but was it a theory carried out into practice? There was High Church, Low Church, Broad Church, and Narrow Church, and there was the Evangelical Church, loving the truth, and preaching it with fervour and with great success. They had got Puseyism—full-blown Puseyism—increasing in the land, and not only building their churches everywhere, but decorating them, and following up practices which were most in harmony with the practices of the Church of Rome. Indeed, many of those men who acted under the Act of Uniformity were speaking down the Reformation, crying up the Anglican and mediæval, and early Church, and they were doing their best to turn the hearts of men away from the simple truth

of the Gospel to mere outward formalities which could profit nothing. If the Church was disestablished, all those religious elements would be dissolved, each peculiarity would gather round it its own force, and then where would be this great dominant religious establishment? It appeared to him that it would be the best thing in the world in which we lived to prevent our land being turned into a Popish country, and the attitude they ought to take was that of endeavouring at least to disestablish. There was no fear of the consequences when it was done, but if there were any fear he should nevertheless say, "Let us do it," because it was right. (Hear, hear.) The rev. gentleman concluded an eloquent and earnest speech by referring to the services which had been rendered to the Nonconformist body by Mr. Miall both in and out of the House of Commons.

The Rev. Ll. D. Bevan, of London, said he was there to speak of the probable effects that would be produced by the disestablishment of the English Church. Nonconformists were excluded from many spheres of life into which they should be glad enough to enter. The pains and penalties were done away with, but the influence of them remained long after they themselves had been swept out of the statute-book. (Hear, hear.) It was within memory, he had no doubt, of many there, when Dissenters were allowed to pay rates of the borough, but were not allowed much to do with saying how those rates should be spent. A noble lord whose name was always a sign of gratitude amongst Dissenters, he meant Lord Russell—(Hear, hear)—was still amongst them full of force and vigour, to whom they owed the repeal of the Acts by which they were shut out of certain offices. It was not so much the direct effect of the law as the indirect influence of this legislation upon the character and feelings of the people. They could do away with the law, but they could not do away with the influence that law had been producing for many years. If a Dissenter was a free citizen, he was not admitted to every social privilege. (Hear, hear.) A Dissenter in society was a strange anomalous personage. As a consequence, they found that many of the sons of old and firm Dissenters were now to be found in the Established Church and in the Ritualistic Churches, which were highly amusing. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) There was no doubt that the average man found that Dissent over-weighed him; it was a cross to bear, and if they had not got good faith in it they would not bear it. There was much more real disability in the matter of education. They were shut out, to a great extent, from the opportunity of education given to the English people. He did not believe in the charges brought against the education, particularly of the middle-class. They had plenty of machinery, and the fault was that the machinery was not properly worked. They found grammar schools with the head masters and trustees belonging to the Established Churches, and the bishop as the visitor, and a Dissenting father naturally felt a great hesitation in sending his son to a school of that sort. They came to Plymouth, and they could not help remembering a certain name well-known in the annals of modern Nonconformity, that name had stood very high in the class lists of the Cambridge University, once at the very head; but where were the rewards such talent ought to have received? (Hear, hear.) Why was it they could not receive the fellowship, honour, and emoluments that would have been poured upon another who took first place? why, because they were not members of the Church established by law, but they believed the day was dawning when the Universities of this country would be thrown open, and the reward of education would soon be found free for all classes. (Hear, hear.) They believed that there would shortly be disestablishment, and it was an evil day for the established Churches when they began the disestablishment of the Irish Church, and Mr. Gladstone had certainly laid the axe to other Churches. He believed the great train of national progress was sadly disturbed by strife within the Church, and he would say turn the disputants out and let them fight it out for themselves. (Hear, hear.) They thought the simplest cure was to get rid of the Church altogether, but perhaps he might turn round and say, Let the State get rid of the Church, and it would be better without it. When it came to that Dissenters would be able to get into society, but that was a result of so little importance that he would pass it by. There was first of all that grand economy of forces which was now so much lost by reason of establishment. They did not want to get into strife with their Baptist and their Wesleyan friends; they would rather enter into conference than contest with them. He believed when the Established Church was gone they should very soon have done with sectarianism altogether. Dissenters were charged with want of learning and want of culture, but he believed that that charge was as untrue as it was common. If they were ignorant, whose fault was it but those who had kept them by the strong hand of force? The English Church had it without their own seeking, and without their own finding, but Dissenters had had to find it, and keep it by conflict and self-sacrifice, and no man could tell the difficulties with which Dissenters had had to contend with to obtain learned ministers, and to obtain anything like a fair education of their people. Let them have the Universities open, and he believed they had the raw material, and that they should be able to take their stand among the learned of the country. (Hear, hear.) By the disestablishment of the Church they should also have their views made broader, and that when they were allowed to enter into the natural spheres of life they should no longer have any narrowness or meanness. It would be a good thing for them to get into the Universities, and it would also be a good thing for the Universities to get them into them—("Hear, hear," and laughter)—and he believed they should take with them a greater reality of purpose than was to be found in members of the Established Church. They claimed to be descendants and representatives of the Ironsides. Let them have the same reality of purpose, let them take care that they did not lose their earnestness when they went out into the wider spheres of national life. It was a libel for Churchmen to say that Dissenters wanted to disestablish the Church because they might prey on it, for they were not jackals. They only hated one thing more than establishment, and that was concurrent endowment. (Hear, hear.) They would say let them trust to themselves, and there would be a bright day in the future, not only for the Free Churches, but for the Church of England, which might be better disestablished. (Applause.) Referring to the visit of the Union to Plymouth, he said the reception given to it was unrivalled by any other town in the kingdom.

The Rev. W. J. Cox, from Leith, the delegate from some of the free churches in Scotland, followed with an interesting address upon the attainments and influence of Congregationalism in that country.

The Rev. J. G. Rogers, of Clapham, next addressed the meeting. His duty, he said, was to hold out the olive branch—to refer to the Catholic side and to the growing Catholicity abroad among the churches of Christ. Although the Church Congress was at present sitting at Southampton, and the Congregational Union was conferring at Plymouth, so dear to the memory of every Nonconformist, and although some malicious persons might say that they were issuing their hostile manifestoes one against the other, he did not wish the two bodies to be regarded as standing in any hostile character. (Hear, hear.) Still, he observed that the Church Congress cherished the very amiable hope—which did them, no doubt, a great deal of good, and the Congregationalists no harm—that it was possible to gather the Nonconformists to their fold, and no doubt they, the Nonconformists, cherished the equally amiable delusion that the English Church was going to be disestablished, and that all would stand on the same level. But between the two there was an immense amount of truth in common which was very important. For instance, both were trying to obtain the efficient co-operation of the laity in the work, both were enemies of infidelity, and of these social changes which tended to destroy the spiritual life, and both were engaged against Satan and his work, and in every form; and therefore what they all desired was that while they knew how to differ, how to express those differences, and to contend for them, they should respect each other's principles. (Applause.) They were getting better in these respects. He knew not what had been Mr. Bevan's experiences, but he (Mr. Rogers) had found Dissenting ministers expressing views on national questions as broad as those expressed by the clergy—(Hear, hear)—and he was glad to see an increase of breadth on all sides. In 1803 they found a Baptist congregation disavowed any connection between its members and those of the Anglican Church, and expelled those who intermarried with Church-members. (Laughter.) Now they had outlived all that kind of thing—(applause)—but he did find that in Manchester a clergyman had said that he was sorry the Nonconformists were losing their spirituality in contending for equality. (Laughter.) The obvious answer to this was, if they lost their spirituality in contending for equality how did the clergy take care of their spirituality whilst they were contending for supremacy? ("Hear, hear," and loud applause.) But this was a state of things which had passed, or was gradually passing away, and many of the clergy were preparing for the era of disestablishment by seeking and cultivating kind and friendly relations with Nonconformists. (Applause.) He cordially acknowledged the very kind treatment he received at a funeral of a friend in a churchyard at the hands of a clergyman, who invited him to pray at the close of the church service; and he was glad to feel that in this way many of the barriers of separation were being broken down. (Hear, hear.) And neither would contend with less spirit and earnestness for their principles in consequence of these courtesies and Christian feelings, but their battles would lose all that element of personal bitterness which they had had so often to deplore. (Hear, hear.) And he was glad to learn that, the other day, the Aldises had been cordially welcomed to the old colleges and the Cambridge University, but it did not eclipse the hospitality and welcome that members of the Congregational Union had been permitted to enjoy at the boards of Churchmen in Plymouth. (Loud applause.) Those things indicate progress, and would do much to secure the good both had in view. (Hear, hear.) He did not attach much importance to the supposed expulsion of Dissenters from society, for they had found equally satisfactory society—(Hear, hear)—but these things irritated people, and were the causes of strife, and disestablishment would do much to remove them, but they must not suppose that it would do everything; they must rise to a higher standard of Christian character by an appreciation of the awfulness and the grandeur of the work they had before them. Look at the teeming populations in want of grace, and they found that whilst religious bodies quarrelled amongst each other as to who should have the children, the devil got possession of them. Disestablishment would not make all men Congregationalists; the very difference in the constitution of the natures of men would make the existence of various churches necessary, but he hoped they would cease to be rival churches, and would have no other emulation than the emulation of doing the work of Christ. (Applause.) Mr. Rogers concluded in a fervidly eloquent peroration on the great necessity for earnest work on the part of all churches.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close. Mr. Hubbard, acknowledging it, remarked that it was twenty-five years since the Union was in Plymouth; after that week's experience, nothing like that number of years should elapse before they sent in a claim for another visit. (Loud applause.)

*** For the above report, as well as the account of the proceedings of the Congregational Union given in our last number, we are indebted to the *Western Daily Mercury*, an enterprising daily paper published at Plymouth.

IRISH CHURCH CONVENTION.

At the second sitting of the Church Convention, held in the Metropolitan Hall, Dublin, on Wednesday, Dr. Ball and Dr. Longfield, the assessors, gave an opinion that it was not competent for them to receive the Rev. Mr. Bloomfield's motion to add to the preamble and declaration words declaring the real presence, baptismal regeneration, auricular confession, and priestly absolution, as innovations. If they did so, there would be no finality in their proceedings. Besides, having regard to recent decisions by Sir Robert Phillimore, they would recommend the Primate not to receive any resolution declaring the real presence and baptismal regeneration opposed to the law of the Church. It was therefore not competent to pass such resolution before the 1st January, 1871. This decision was sustained by the Convention. Master Brook presented a memorial, expressing a hope that the committee appointed to revise the canons and laws of the Church would recommend the adoption of precautions to prevent the introduction of modern ritualism, and that the Convention would pass the resolutions necessary thereto. They disclaimed any desire to alter the comprehensive basis of the Church, but were equally unwilling to admit that its basis was ever intended to be so wide as to admit the assertion of those dangerous principles of modern ritualism. Master Brook gave notice of motion to appoint a committee of twelve bishops or clergy, and twelve laymen, to consider the memorial. It had been signed by 3,800 vestries, and approved by 200 members of the Convention.

On Thursday the question of ecclesiastical tribunals was again under discussion. The Archbishop of Dublin proposed as a compromise that laymen should occupy a co-ordinate judicial position with the bishop and clergy in the diocesan court. A lengthened discussion having taken place, the amendment was put and carried unanimously, and the clause, as amended, was then adopted. A number of other clauses relative to the functions of the court and the mode of preferring charges were adopted. The 12th clause enacted that it would be competent for the diocesan council or bishop's court to inhibit the accused, whether clergyman or lay office-bearer, from exercising his office until after the delivery of final judgment. On the motion of Mr. J. C. Bloomfield this clause was rejected. Clauses 13 and 14, which related to the attendance and examination of witnesses, were adopted without amendment. Clauses 15 to 20, inclusive, were also adopted—some with a few slight verbal alterations.

Other clauses on the same subject were considered at Friday's and Saturday's sitting. Some of the amendments were withdrawn, some rejected, and others carried.

The sittings of the Convention are likely to last some time. Archdeacon Darley, of Ardagh, has given notice that he will move the appointment of a committee to confer with a committee of Wesleyan delegates with a view to reunion.

CHURCH CONFERENCES.

A conference of clergy and laity, to last two days, was opened at Leeds on Wednesday, under the presidency of the Bishop of Ripon. His lordship, in opening the proceedings, said it was not only inevitable but desirable that different views on the great questions now engaging public attention should be freely expressed, for it was only by the collision of opinion that the truth could be elicited. Papers were read on the best means of attaching the working classes to the Church, and on the fostering of missionary zeal within the Church. Among the means discussed were the establishment of bible-classes, cottage-meetings, and mothers' meetings. The establishment of mission rooms was also recommended as being more acceptable to working men than attending church. Special services for the masses, and a simplification of the Church service, were also recommended. Much stress was laid on the importance of co-operation between the clergy and laity, and a tribute was paid to the earnestness displayed by many working men in religious matters.

The Archbishop of York presided at a conference of laity and clergy at Doncaster on Wednesday. He said that of late years the position of the Church has greatly altered. Though she had increased in activity on the one hand, on the other, those who were against her had also increased in activity. Any one who looked back for twenty-five years, and compared the position of the Church then with its position now, would be greatly encouraged by finding that marks of increased vitality were everywhere noticeable; and, on the other hand, he would see signs of a period of change, and he would be more or less apprehensive as to what those changes might produce in the future. What the changes would be none could foresee, but he believed there could be

only one opinion on this point—viz., that the Church must see good in the present work. She must so do the work that whatever change might, be in store for her, she should be prepared to meet it in all that related to the life and activity of a religious body. He believed the opinion would be accepted by all, that in the past they had made little use of the laity. This bringing in of the laity to their councils was almost a new discovery. For his part, he freely confessed, though some of his brethren of the clergy would not, perhaps, endorse it, that he should like to see a council of lay helpers in every parish. He believed that the fear and mistrust between the clergy and the laity were rapidly diminishing, and that they had only rested upon a want of knowledge, the one of the other. The more the clergy and the laity were engaged in the same work the more would it be seen that the work was essentially the same, and the little asperities would be gradually rubbed off by the attrition of common activity in doing good. The Church would then be one living whole united to Christ as its head, and both clergy and laity would be animated by the blessed spirit of doing good in endeavouring to win souls to Christ, and in promoting the spiritual welfare of the people. Whatever, therefore, might be in store for them in the future, it was most desirable that they should have around them every member of the Church. They were all agreed upon this, that they were living in a time of considerable peril. He did not, however, despair as some did. Of one thing they were certain, that the times they were living in were most important, and that they needed the activity, the thought, and the prayers of every man among them; and the more persons they could enlist in the work the better it would be for the work that they had to do. (Applause.) It would follow from that, that the business of the conference was not theory, not discussion about doctrine, and not the seeking after things upon which they differed. It was practice in the first place, and in the next place an endeavour to draw together rather than to part asunder.

THE ACTION OF UNIVERSITY TESTS.

Another example of the practical inconvenience arising from the postponement of the University Tests Bill has just occurred at Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. G. C. W. Warr, who entered the College with a minor scholarship, carried off an ample harvest of prizes during his undergraduate course, and for the crowning sheaf added, in the spring of 1869, the degree of third classic. Bachelors are eligible to sit for fellowships at the three annual examinations following their tripos. Mr. Warr proved successful at the second attempt, and was duly announced to the world as a Fellow of Trinity. The announcement, however, was premature. No election is complete until the Thirty-nine Articles have been humbly subscribed; and when the Masters and Seniors, assembled in full conclave in the College Chapel, requested his signature along with the rest, he declined to give it. Though he had been always deemed a member of the Church of England, or, at least, had not been identified with any Nonconformist body, he appears to have felt himself unable to render that assent to the Articles which is yet reckoned an essential safeguard of English Colleges. Whatever (says the *Daily News*) may have been his particular grounds of objection, they supported him against the bribe of 300*l.* a-year, backed by an alluring prospect of lectureships, tutorships, and livings; and if he had already set aside so great a temptation, he was scarcely likely to be moved by the deprecating glances of those present. Trinity College has supplied several instances during the past few months of men renouncing positions of influence and competence for conscience' sake, and the conduct of Mr. Warr will materially aid in the crusade they have been leading against tests.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND THE POPE.

A protest signed by Cardinal Cullen, three archbishops, and eighteen suffragan bishops, in reference to the annexation of Rome, has been issued in Ireland. It declares that the words used come from hearts filled with sorrow and indignation because the Pope is a prisoner in the hands of his enemies. It then proceeds in seven clauses to protest against the acts of the Italian Government, and concludes by imploring the faithful to have recourse to prayers and fasting, and to unite in protesting against the insults which have been heaped on the Holy Father.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, having just returned from the Œcumenical Council at Rome, was on Sunday telling his flock what he thought about it, and he gave them this view of the Infallibility dogma. He said the Holy See had had nothing at all to do with originating it, but it was the determination of the great majority of the bishops "to silence the Gallican School for ever," and this, he contended, had been done! They must, he said, have either one Pope whom God had made infallible, or the Protestant alternative of every man infallible by virtue of his own judgment—a Pope made by God, or millions of Popes made by themselves.

At the French Roman Catholic Church, called "Notre Dame de France," there was solemn observance on Tuesday of the feast of "Notre Dames des Victoires." Archbishop Manning preached the sermon (in French), in the course of which he said that, although they were celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Victories, it was this year a day of tears to many, and it was his wish to speak a few words of consolation. He spoke of the debt due to France for the many most important services that country had rendered to religion. Great as her warriors had been in many ages, her greatest heroes were her bishops and clergy. In her present sorrow (into the political causes of which he would not enter) he felt a deep sympathy for her sufferings, to which he hoped Providence would give a speedy end. The present weakness of France was a cause of weakness to the Church, which had received two blows lately, one in the far East and one in Rome. If France were strong now, those who had struck those blows would be punished. He confidently trusted that France would be restored to the position by which, for more than a thousand years, she had been able to render such signal benefits to the Church. A very striking circumstance was the presence of a large number of Sisters of Charity and of French children under their care.

CHURCH AND STATE IN ITALY.

On Wednesday evening last a lecture was delivered at the Town Hall, Brighton, by James White, Esq., M.P., senior representative of the borough, on "The Kingdom of Italy." The lecture was the first of a series to be delivered during the winter, under the auspices of the Brighton Liberal Registration Association. There was a large and attentive audience. C. Carpenter, Esq., presided. The lecture, which abounded in interesting information, was very cordially received. We are sorry that the demands upon our space prevent us from quoting more than the following passage on the subject of the relations of Church and State in the Italian Kingdom:—

Rome, I rejoice to know, is henceforth to be the capital of the Kingdom of Italy. But, if so, how is it possible that the Supreme Head of the Church, and the Head of the State, can both occupy the same city without soon being at loggerheads. I candidly confess that I fail to discover the *modus vivendi* how the Ecclesiastical and the Secular Authority can live together in harmony. It is true that Pio Nono is an old man, and, if infallible, is not immortal. To my Protestant perception, the Roman Pontiff would cease to be the exponent of Roman Catholic faith if he were to consent to become subordinate to the Civil Power. Is it then reasonable to expect that Rome can long continue to be the abode of the Pope, who persistently proclaims that the Church, if it be not supreme, is not free, and the seat of a Parliament which enacts that such freedom to the Church is the negation of both civil and religious liberty? I say nothing of the obvious inconvenience and annoyance to which the Head of the Church would be exposed by residing in the capital of a great kingdom. To say nothing of the damaging consequences to priestly prestige of proximity and contact with mundane affairs, all tending to raise the veil before which men bow in awe and adoration. "'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view," for the inhabitants of Rome have, from time immemorial, been the most irreverent of Roman Catholics. I am, I confess, at a loss to discover how the present antagonism of Church and State can be soon extinguished, or even diminished. The best laws yet passed by the Italian Parliament, those for the suppression of religious houses, the secularisation of Church property, the abolition of ecclesiastical privileges and exemptions, all those beneficent measures are still under the ban of the Church. As far as I can make out, although it is not now as it was some years back, when the fame of "*un esprit fort*"—a free-thinker—was the distinctive mark of patriotism, still the instructed classes, although they have not become Protestants, have long ceased to be devout Catholics. I think, however, that much of the alleged infidelity of Italy is rather a fleeting fashion than a serious conviction. It is, however, affirmed by competent authorities that the majority of men, of the refined and cultivated classes, regard the modern miracles and mock mysteries of the State Church as contemptible, detasing, and vulgar. Thus, whilst among the educated, but little reverence remains for the present corrupt teaching and practices of the old faith, still no desire exists to embrace a new one. The "Statuto" or Constitution of 1848, declares, in its first article that (La religione cattolica, apostolica e romana é la sola religione dello Stato), the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman religion is alone the religion of the State. I should add, it further declares that all other religions now existing are tolerated conformably with the laws. Having regard to the preposterous pretensions of the Papacy as exemplified in the "Encyclical," the "Syllabus," and recent vote of the Ecumenical Council assembled in Rome, many earnest thinkers in Italy have arrived at the conviction of the impracticability of much longer maintaining a State Church. They affirm that the early separation of Church and State is a logical necessity. That it is simply impossible to effect such a transformation of the Roman Catholic Church, as shall place it in harmony with any State that is Liberal, or professes to be Liberal. They confidently aver, too, that any attempt of the Civil Power to guide the State Church into the path of instructed progress and moral enlightenment, would be resented and resisted as State tyranny. Hence their solution of this grave, great, and emergent problem, is none other than the adoption of what is known here, as the Voluntary system; *id est* those only who benefit by the teachings, should be called upon to support the teacher. The advanced Liberals of Italy proclaim that it is only by the disestablishment and disendowment of the State Church of Italy, that the Italians will be ever able to realise the beau ideal—the dying words of Count Cavour—A Free Church in a Free State. Whenever this separation of Church and State takes place, I do not expect we shall see Italy become Protestant, but I do think we shall see Catholicism greatly purified, rid of much of its Romanism, and the teachings of its ministers rendered more conformable, as we Protestants may think, with the teachings of the Primitive Church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, it is stated, is desirous that a Committee of Prelates should be appointed by the Upper House of Convocation to consider a plan for the revision of the Prayer-book.

The *Record* is informed that the New Testament Revisionists have voted that the true translation of our Lord's Prayer is, "Deliver us from the evil one." They also agree to expunge the Doxology at the end, as absent from all the earliest manuscripts.

A statement is current that an eminent London publisher has offered 10,000*l.* for the exclusive right, for ten years, of publishing the revised version of the Bible now in progress.

It is stated that the Bishop of Winchester has consented to become patron of all those branches of the British and Foreign Bible Society in his diocese where Bishop Sumner occupied the same office.

Ecclesiastical Reform in Austria.—Our (*Eastern Budget*) Vienna correspondent says, writing on the 14th inst.—"The Empress of Austria has decided to pass the winter with the two Archduchesses at Meran, where the Palace of Count Traubbmansdorff is being prepared for her reception. The clerical party in the Tyrol will, it is believed, do its utmost to take advantage of the Empress's stay in the country to win her over to their policy. There is no prospect, however, of these machinations being successful, for it is known that Her Majesty is strongly opposed to ecclesiastical domination, and all the members of her father's family are distinguished for their liberal views in religious matters. The religious movement in Austria differs from that in other Roman Catholic countries, such as Italy and Spain, in one essential characteristic. The Liberal Italians and Spaniards seek an alteration in their relations towards the Church from political motives, but they do not ask for any alteration in the doctrines of the Church. In Austria the causes of the struggle between Liberal Catholics and Ultramontanes lie deeper. The former, who are chiefly Germans, not only aim at a complete separation of the Church from the State, but firmly resist the spiritual pretensions and blind intolerance of the Holy See. There first demand was for the liberation of the schools from ecclesiastical control, the introduction of secular education, and the establishment of secular institutions for the training of teachers, so as to remove, not only the schools, but the teachers, entirely from clerical influence. Such a demand is far more threatening to the spiritual power of the Church than the attacks which have been made on its political position in Italy and Spain, and this explains why the religious struggle is so much more embittered in Austria than in those countries."

Religious and Denominational News.

THE HAMPSHIRE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

The annual meetings of the above Union were held in the Congregational Church, Winchester, on Wednesday week. The members and friends met at ten o'clock, when there was a devotional service. After the service, the Rev. W. H. Fuller, the pastor, delivered an address, which, after some reference to the business before the meeting, adverted to the subject of ministerial settlements. He thought the easiest way of preventing the entrance of unworthy persons to the ministry was for each minister to engage not to take part in any ordination service on his own responsibility. In one of the districts of the Hants Union they had already taken that pledge. In respect to the new Education Act, he deprecated the prevalent apathy—

Others, whose political views, ecclesiastical tastes, and sectarian interest, have been consulted by Liberal statesmen beyond their own hopes or expectations, are working quietly and earnestly in their several localities to take the full advantage of their position. They, at least, have little cause to complain of the fostering care of a Liberal Government. But, depend upon it, unless we take the necessary pains to master the details of the Act, and to watch its operation in our several localities, above all to secure worthy representatives of our own in the event of school boards being elected, we shall suffer loss. And I am bold to say that our loss as a denomination will be tantamount in this matter to the country's loss, as our interests are identical with those of a great national unsectarian system of education. And, in the matter of school boards, I may just say that there is no reason why, with proper forethought and preparation, our interests (and, as we believe, the true interests of the nation) may not be protected to some extent in almost every district. Each voter will be entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of members to be elected, and, as all their votes may be given to any single candidate, and, as the ladies may vote as well as the gentlemen, it will be hard if, with proper management, we do not secure some representation, if not adequate representation, in most of the school boards throughout the United Kingdom. We have no selfish interests to serve in the matter, no desire to take part in any general scramble after Government money or denominational influence through Government schools. Our principles as free churchmen, if not our self-respect as individuals, would prevent us from competing with others on such terms as these. But the very policy against which we have protested almost as one man now compels us to do all we can to hold and to increase our denominational influence for the general good, hoping that in the end a more liberal and enlightened policy may prevail.

The speaker then referred to the marvellous events on the continent. At the conclusion of the address, which was listened to with great attention, the general report was read by the secretary, the Rev. W. M. Paull, of Romsey. The business of the Union was then transacted, which consisted mainly of admissions, and transfers and grants in aid of the evangelical operations in the rural districts of the county of Hampshire, amounting to a sum total of upwards of 900*l.* Interesting papers were then read on "Church Reference Councils," by the Rev. R. A. Davies, of Ventnor; and on "Church Finance," by W. B. Randall, Esq., J.P., of Southampton, which were ordered to be printed, and the whole subject referred to a committee specially elected, who are to

bring up their report at the next spring meeting of the Union. Dinner was provided in the British Hall, at which about 100 persons were present. After the usual compliments to the Queen, Royal Family, Clergy of the Denominations, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Union, the Rev. Dr. Ferguson explained the operations of the Pastors' Retiring Fund, the object of which is to make some provision for the ministers disabled by age or infirmity. He hoped, with a little more help on the part of the churches, in a few months to realise 100,000*l.* After which he would be free to devote his energies to the establishment of a like fund of 50,000*l.* in aid of the widows. The contribution of 10*l.* from any church constitutes its pastor a life member. After which the hearty thanks of the Union were voted to the friends in Winchester for their liberal hospitality, and, in returning thanks, the Rev. W. Fuller tendered his acknowledgments to members of other communions—Episcopalian, Baptist, and Wesleyan—for their kindness in coming forward, many of them unsolicited, to help in entertaining so large a number of guests. In the evening there was a public meeting, at which the chair was taken by the Rev. J. Fletcher, of Christchurch. After prayer had been offered by the Rev. H. R. Cooke, of Bournemouth, some admirable addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. Jones, of Portsmouth, on "The duty of a Church to itself—its ministry, membership, and services"; by the Rev. S. March, B.A., of Southampton, on "The duty of a Church to other Churches of its own and other denominations"; by the Rev. J. Llewellyn, of Havant, on "The Work of an evangelist, with special reference to our County Missions"; and by the Rev. G. A. Coltart, of Ryde, on "The Voice of the Church and the peace of the world."

Three Chinese have been admitted to membership with the Congregational church of Oakland, California. They had been instructed in the Sunday-school.

The Rev. G. W. Conder has been entertained at a social meeting, and presented with a purse of three hundred guineas, on his removal from Cheetham-hill, Manchester, to Forest-hill, Surrey.

Sir Robert Peel has given to the Baptists at Tamworth a large building for a tabernacle, at a nominal rent, and written a kind letter, which was read at the opening service on Wednesday.

The Rev. J. Grosvenor, of Knowle, Bridgwater, having received and accepted an invitation characterised by complete unanimity, to succeed the Rev. J. Ward in the pastorate of the Church at Street, Somersetshire, preached his farewell sermon at the former place on Sunday week last, and entered upon his new sphere of ministerial labour on Sunday, Oct. 17, with cheering prospects of future usefulness.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Rev. Thomas Ryder, late of Padiham, East Lancashire, was publicly recognised as the pastor of the Baptist church, Stoney-street, Nottingham, on Tuesday evening, October 18. About 300 persons partook of tea in the new and elegant schoolroom. After tea the meeting was held in the chapel, which was well filled. E. Barwick, Esq., occupied the chair. In the absence of the Rev. Alexander McLaren, of Manchester, the Rev. W. R. Skerry, of Sabden, bore testimony to Mr. Ryder's usefulness and integrity as a minister in Lancashire. After a few words from the new pastor, congratulatory speeches were delivered by the Revs. Samuel Cox, W. R. Stevenson, M.A.; W. Underwood, D.D.; J. B. Dougherty, M.A.; J. Matheson, M.A.; and others. There is every promise of a happy and successful career both for Mr. Ryder and the church in Stoney-street. He succeeds the Rev. J. Greenwood, M.A., has recently left England for Australia.

HIGHBURY-HILL.—On Thursday the memorial stone of a new Baptist Chapel at Highbury-hill was laid in the presence of a large number of persons, the masonic portion of the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. G. Lewis, president of the London Baptist Association. The site on which the new chapel is being built is closely adjoining that of Highbury Training College, and in the midst of a new neighbourhood, which has sprung into existence within the last few years, and is being rapidly covered with houses of a superior description. The new building will be extremely plain in appearance, with little or no attempt at ornamentation, but with schoolrooms and suitable offices attached. The minister appointed to the new chapel is the Rev. J. Culross, D.D. Among those who took part in the ceremony were the Revs. C. H. Spurgeon, W. Brock, D.D., J. Edmond, D.D., J. Hobson, C. Bailhache, S. H. Booth, L. Wiseman, G. T. Perks, W. J. Tweedie, T. V. Tymms, R. N. Young, &c. In the evening a service was held at the Highbury Wesleyan Chapel, the sermon being preached by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

GRANTHAM.—A new Congregational church and schools were opened at Grantham, Lincolnshire, on Thursday, the 13th inst., when the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., preached. The group of buildings is one of the most neat and appropriate for Congregational purposes which have lately been erected, and for the money which has been spent there is displayed an astonishing amount of elegance and taste. The church is capable of containing 600 people. In the schools from 300 to 400 children can be instructed. The style of architecture adopted is English Gothic of the thirteenth century, the material used being Ancaster stone lined with red bricks. The buildings occupy a central and in every way eligible site at the junction of Castlegate and Avenue-road with St. Peter's-hill, and is adjacent to the new Town Hall. The cost of the church, schools, and land is about 4,311*l.* At present there is a debt upon the work of 974*l.*, which, before the accounts are closed, must be reduced to 500*l.* The architect is James Tait, Esq., of Leicester. The movement for the erection of a new sanctuary for the use of the Congregationalists of Grantham had its origin in connection with the Nottingham county scheme.

DUMFERMLINE.—On Sunday week special services were held in Queen Anne-street United Presbyterian Church, Dumfermline, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Robert French, M.A. In the forenoon the Rev. M. Crawford, of Glasgow, preached from the words in Matthew's Gospel, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled," at the close of which he referred in prudent but highly complimentary terms to his friend the Rev. Mr. French. In the afternoon the newly-ordained minister entered the pulpit accompanied by the Rev. Dr. William Anderson, of Glasgow, who said a few words to the members of the church. Subsequently Mr. French gave out a Psalm, engaged in prayer, and preached from Judges vii. 20, on which he founded a practical discourse. The large church, which will hold from 1,600 to 1,800 persons, was crowded. In the evening Dr. Anderson officiated, when he discoursed with his wonted ability and fervour, and not a little of the vigour with which some of the elder members recollected him to have preached in the same locality upwards of forty years ago. The church was densely packed, several ministers of different denominations being among the audience. Ralph Erskine, the celebrated Secession minister, formerly presided over this church, though not on the same footing. In the session-house and vestry of the church, in addition to portraits of former ministers and one or two historic documents, are to be seen a number of very interesting memorials of Erskine—including the oaken chair in which he sat as moderator of the session, and his pulpit Bible, a large folio illustrated volume with clasps, containing the Apocrypha, printed in 1680, and still in excellent condition.

Correspondence.

CONGREGATIONALISTS AND THE EDUCATION ACT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Cannot the Congregational Union infuse something of its own spirit into the Congregationalists of London? There are signs only too manifest that in several boroughs the forthcoming School Board election will become a mere test of the relative strength of sects. Already in our borough, at least, a conference of leading local men has apportioned the representation between the different religious bodies. Already our Sunday-school organisations are being used for electioneering purposes; already prominent Dissenters talk about the cumulative strength of their several bodies. A friend of mine was recently urged to support a prominent Sunday-school man, on the ground that if a number of such men were elected, we should be able to use the new school buildings as Sunday-schools.

What does all this mean? Are we about to witness the growth of a new school of political Dissenters, who shall anew vindicate our title to be "the grasping monopolists of toleration"? Or are some men so eager for office that they must needs drag into their service forces that never can be used for party conflicts without being themselves impaired?

As a young Nonconformist, I am surprised to find that men from whom I have learned the principle of religious equality are now hand-in-glove with the bitter opponents of those principles. I suppose I must have misunderstood them, for apparently they believe in the liberation of religion from State patronage only so long as an exception is made in favour of Evangelical teaching.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

London, Oct. 24, 1870. WONDER.

MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Circumstances rendered it impossible for me to reply last week to the letters of "Vigilans" and Mr. W. Warburton, and I beg permission to do so now. These gentlemen have introduced so many collateral topics that it would require more time than I can give, and more space than you would afford to discuss them all. But neither of them has even touched the main point at issue, as stated in my defence of the resolutions of the Congregational Board. Right or wrong, we do now hold ordination and recognition services, in which neighbouring and other ministers take part. On these occasions questions are asked and answered relating to Christian character, the leading doctrines of Christianity, and other matters, and the assembled ministers, avowing their satisfaction through one of their number, publicly give the right hand of ministerial fellowship and welcome to the minister-elect. That this act on the part of the assembled ministers of a district may be intelligent, honest, and real, the Congregational Board says that previous to any announcement of a public service a private conference should be held at which the minister-elect shall have the opportunity of making those statements which he professes to be ready to make in public. Objectors may raise a cloud of dust around this simple proposal, or may throw up their caps and shout "Liberty." But every exception taken to it misses the mark unless it be taken, and taken validly, against the whole principle and mode of our ordination and recognition services.

Between Mr. Warburton and the London Congregational ministers there is no common basis of argument. *They* regard the public recognition of a man as pastor of a Christian church as a very solemn and serious transaction involving important consequences to neighbouring ministers and churches, and on this ground they avowedly base their proposal. Mr. Warburton regards the invitation to neighbouring ministers to take part in an ordination or recognition as "a matter of friendship and courtesy," and objects to a proceeding which would convert it into anything else. So long as there is this wide difference between the Board and its censor, argument seems wasted. But even on his own principle one wonders how far your correspondent would carry the claims of "courtesy." Suppose a man who denies the deity of our Lord should ask neighbouring ministers to come to his recognition as "an act of friendship and courtesy"—do they interfere with the liberty of the man or his church if they decline? Now nothing will justify such a breach of "courtesy" (an act which "Vigilans" considers equivalent to excommunication) but the principle that a public recognition involves in it a declaration of substantial oneness in the faith, along with confidence in character. And if these are involved in it, why object to such inquiry before the recognition as will ascertain the fact of its existence?

But "Vigilans" objects to such inquiry on the ground that sufficient evidence has already been furnished. "He (the new coming minister) was originally commended to the ministry by an orthodox church. He has passed through college with the approbation of his tutors. His teaching satisfies the Church which has elected. He knows in his heart that he is loyal to the Great Master, &c." "Vigilans" assumes that *every* man who aspires to a pastorate has passed through a college, and has left it with the approbation of his tutors; that *every* man who has been to college was originally commended to the ministry by an orthodox church; and that every such man is conscious of his own loyalty to the Great Master. These are bold assumptions. Rather are they an act of judgment, such as the Congregational Board would not dream of. One of this series of assumptions may be easily tested. Let him open the "Congregational Year-Book" at any page, and he will find the names of many who were never at any college. I have done it at this moment, and taken the first page that has turned up, and find thirteen names of ministers who have had no collegiate training. Among the 193 members of the Congregational Board itself, there are at least twenty-five who have passed through no college to the ministry. And of the ninety-seven ministers resident in and about London who are not members of the Board, there are thirty-four who have not passed through college to the ministry. These non-college men may be quite equal to their brethren. Many of them are certainly "not one whit" behind their brethren. But the fact remains that there are some sixty Congregational ministers in London alone, some with and some without charges, who have entered our ministry through other doors than those of our colleges. And yet the fact of a college course is assumed as rendering further inquiry unnecessary!

"Vigilans" seems very much concerned about the reference of the Board's resolution to the new-coming minister's "views of Christian truth," and seems to see in it a yoke of bondage which ministers and churches will not bear. Is he prepared, then, to recommend that those who take part in ordination and recognition services should ask no question except as to the "personal character" and "the circumstances of the settlement" of the man whom they publicly admit into their ministerial fellowship? Is it a matter of no moment to them whether, for example, he believes in the Divine authority of Holy Scripture, or whether he believes in the Godhead of Christ? Is it enough to know that he is a good and honest man, let him believe and preach what he pleases? If this is his idea, "Vigilans" must know that it is not what Congregational ministers and churches have hitherto thought and practised. And if this should ever become the general judgment and practice of Congregationalists, there are not a few among us who would seek refuge from such "freedom" in some other communion.

"But," says "Vigilans," "better far the ancient creeds and standards than the capricious and conflicting decisions of extemporised local conferences." A brave and well-sounding stroke to conclude a letter with, I reply, but it does not hit the nail, it only beats the air. Assuming "Vigilans" to be a minister, he was ordained by his brethren—or, if not, he is an exception to the rule. At his ordination he would have refused, I venture to say, to "subscribe" any creed, ancient or modern, but he did not refuse to answer for the satisfaction of the assembled presbyters and pastors the usual question as to his views of the leading doctrines of the Christian faith. Now, why might not this have been done in private before ordination, that the assembled pastors might take their place on the public platform, already knowing the man and the grounds which justified their public procedure? On what principle can the private conference be objected to, if the public conference be approved? The Board never dreamt of local conferences, themselves extemporised, extemporising a creed and requiring either subscription or the

verbal acceptance of it; but, on the basis of an existing public practice, they included "his views of Christian truth" among those things of which the minister-elect should give "explanations and information" to the brethren whose public recognition he desires to have.

Mr. Warburton instances a case in which, if a church should be formed and a minister settled, certain cantankerous and ill-conditioned men would give trouble under the operation of such resolutions as those of the Board. But such men as these would be able to give far more trouble without than with a "local conference." In a local conference, properly constituted, any unreasonable opposition would be overborne. Referring to Lancashire, from which Mr. Warburton writes, I find the Lancashire Congregational Union divided into four districts, and in the smallest of them there are twenty-one churches, in the others many more. I would accept a fairly constituted representation of twenty churches as the best possible defence against the caprices of such men as your correspondent describes. It would be easy to adduce illustrative examples in proof of the necessity and utility of the recommendations of the Congregational Board, and that from my own personal knowledge. But your readers will readily divine reasons why it should not be done.

I have to apologise to you, Mr. Editor, for trespassing so much on your space. And I have to apologise to my brethren of the Congregational Board for volunteering in their defence. But inasmuch as what is everybody's business is nobody's, I have felt it better to be guilty of seeming to "take too much upon me" than to run the risk of seeing their action condemned without defence. The subject is not new to me. For more than five-and-twenty years I have written and spoken in advocacy of the principles which I am now defending, and it is with great thankfulness I see these principles commending themselves to Congregational "unions" and "associations" all over the kingdom—some having acted upon them for years, others being now engaged in reducing them to rule and system. Dr. Stoughton, who, though a member of the London Board, was not present when the resolutions were discussed and adopted, gave his adhesion to them in his able paper on the "Ministry" at Plymouth, and with the quotation of his words I withdraw from the controversy, at least so far as this correspondence is concerned:—

"I do think," Dr. Stoughton said, "that one pastor by himself, with such accidental sources of information as he may happen to possess, ought not to be left to assume all the responsibility in so important a matter as the ordination of ministers. I have seen, I have felt, the mischief of it, in more cases than one; and this fact commends to my mind the advice of the London brethren who say that, 'previous to the public service of the ordination or recognition of a pastor taking place, a conference of local ministers and (if practicable) of delegates or officers of neighbouring churches, should be held, at which the incoming pastor should offer those explanations, and afford that information respecting his personal character, his views of Christian truth, and the circumstances of his settlement, which, if satisfactory, would enable them to give him an intelligent welcome.' This is a rule (as to the spirit of it—for I do not insist upon any hard-and-fast line of proceeding) which appears to me most wise and salutary in all those cases in which men who have only been privately instructed—men who have had no regular instruction at all—men who have come fresh from some secular occupation—men who have been only city or home missionaries—and men who have left other communions, seek a ministerial status in our denomination."

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN KENNEDY.

Stepney, Oct. 23, 1870.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

Lord Derby presided on Thursday at a meeting held at Preston in furtherance of the objects of the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education. Lord Derby said that the Education Act had been conceived in a spirit of fairness, moderation, and equity, and he thought it bade fair to obtain a maximum of useful results with a minimum of antagonism or opposition, or injury to the feelings of individuals or classes. But the Act was merely a tentative and experimental measure. There was no finality about it. It held out, however, to the various religious denominations into which the community is divided the very strongest possible incentive to exertion, and a warning that if the educational requirements of the country are not adequately met, either by the agencies now existing or those which have been recently sanctioned, they will have to be met in some other way. His lordship went on to remark that he had not a word to say against the system of school boards. They were an experiment which ought to be tried fairly, and which he supposed would be tried in pretty nearly every large town throughout the country; but he did not think that those persons were either unreasonable or illiberal who in their own neighbourhood were anxious, as far as may be, to enlarge on the old foundations instead of laying new ones; to go on as long as they can with the educational machinery to which they and their neighbours have been accustomed, and which does not involve an addition to local taxation. "My only feeling in this matter," his lordship said, "is this: let us have the Act effectually put into operation; let us, by whatever agency we may severally prefer, render instruction at least universal; and, seeing as I do, in this proposed diocesan board of education an engine which may be powerful for that purpose, I, for one, give it a very willing support." The Bishop of Manchester and the Hon. F. A. Stanley also spoke, and resolutions were adopted approving of the objects of the board.

A meeting was held on Thursday, at the rooms of the Social Science Association, to consider the means of bringing before the public candidates for the school board, without reference to sect or party, but simply from regard to their acquaintance with the work of education. Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P., presided. The meeting was addressed by the chairmain, Mr. Cullagh Torrens, M.P., Professor Ames, &c. A resolution, in in accordance with the object of the meeting, was agreed to, and another proposing to bring the subject before the public.

Mr. T. Chatfield Clarke, of Highbury-hill, has been selected as a Liberal candidate for a seat on the school board for the Finsbury district, and has received a requisition signed by some of the most influential men in that neighbourhood. He has been long interested in the education of the working classes.

A meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge was held on Thursday in St. James's Hall, the Bishop of Rochester in the chair, when it was agreed unanimously to make a grant of 10,000*l.* in aid of elementary education in connection with the Church of England.

It is anticipated that no education rate or school board will be required at Norwich, as there is school accommodation for 10,800 children, out of 13,500 who ought to be at school. Further accommodation is being provided for 1,100 more, and a council of clergy and laity has been appointed, with a view to meet the deficiency by voluntary effort.

The Oxford Local Board have agreed, by a majority of twenty-two to ten, to petition for the establishment of an education board for that city. Considerable difference of opinion exists among the ratepayers as to the wisdom of this step, many being of opinion that the number of good schools already in operation in Oxford renders it unnecessary.

The Archbishop of York has issued the following letter to the clergy of his diocese:—

Bishopthorpe, Oct. 15.

Reverend Brother,—You are aware that a recent Act of Parliament makes it desirable that any attempt to establish or complete Church schools in a parish should be made before the close of the present year. The statistics which I have collected, through the kind aid of the clergy, show that while the Church of England has striven hard to overtake the duty of educating the people, a good deal remains to be done in this direction. I request that any attempt that is about to be made in any parish to supply any such want may be notified to me as soon as possible. I have also to request that on the second Sunday in November, or as soon thereafter as may be, you will be good enough to make a special appeal to your congregation by a sermon and collection of alms, for aiding the poorer parishes to secure Church schools. The recent measure for national education appears to be an honest attempt to solve a difficult and complicated problem; but while we do justice to the measure, we do not the less feel the duty that lies on us as a National Church of giving, as far as possible, a religious education to the people. Hitherto, almost three-fourths of the education in the kingdom have been provided by the Church, and the moment has come for completing, under God's blessing, and with deep thankfulness to Him for the past, the machinery for training up the young to discharge their duties in this life in the faith and fear of God. Praying that the Lord may be with you in all your labours in much grace and peace,

I am, your affectionate friend and servant,

W. Ebor.

A county meeting, called in compliance with an influential requisition, by the High Sheriff (James Pulleine, Esq.) was held on Friday at York, with the object of promoting the improvement and extension of the means of education for the middle classes in Yorkshire, in co-operation with the Endowed School Commissioners. The High Sheriff presided; and the Rev. Canon Robinson, one of the Endowed School Commissioners, fully detailed the objects and intentions of that body. He explained that the scheme suggested was the establishment of middle-class grade schools, and that the endowments should be applied for the benefit of girls as well as boys, no gratuitous education being given except as the reward of merit. The rev. gentleman also pointed out that there were many charitable doles in existence which would be much more usefully applied to the purposes of education than to their present objects. The Archbishop, Lord Teignmouth, Lord F. Cavendish, M.P., Mr. Baines, M.P., Mr. Dent, M.P., Mr. C. B. Denison, M.P., Mr. Pease, M.P., Mr. H. S. Thomson, Mr. Leeman, and Mr. Stanhope addressed the meeting, and resolutions were passed authorising the establishment of a Yorkshire Education Society, and appointing a committee to prepare a scheme for its management.

Twenty-five quarter-casks of gunpowder, seized at a Fenian store in Ireland, and brought to Woolwich, on being opened at the Royal Laboratory for examination, were found to contain lucifer matches and old nails in considerable quantities, mixed with the powder, in every cask. If the casks had been subjected to the rough usages of a railway transit, the consequences might have been terrible. The casks were placed in a barge on the river, and the boat having been scuttled was sunk at high tide.

Foreign and Colonial.

ITALY AND ROME.

A telegram from Florence says that several of the European Cabinets have communicated to the Pope their distinct and unanimous opinion that he ought to remain at the Vatican, and that he is prepared to accept it. The report of the Pope's probable departure for Innspruck is denied. He is stated to enjoy excellent health.

Signor Sella has returned from Rome, where a deputation of Romans waited on him to thank him for his energetic policy, and urged him to complete his work by immediately declaring Rome the capital of Italy.

The official journals announce that the King will enter Rome before the Parliamentary vote, accompanied by Prince Umberto and the Princess Margherita.

The Italian electoral law has been published at Rome. The number of deputies is fixed at fourteen.

In several churches of Florence a letter of the Pope has been posted up stating that the invasion of the Roman States has deprived the Pope and the Œcumenical Council of the necessary liberty; consequently the Council is suspended and deferred until a more opportune season.

The Roman correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 15th, says:—

The occupation of Rome was considered by King Victor Emmanuel and his Ministers as of vital importance to bring about a reconciliation between Church and State. Having carried out the first part of Count Cavour's programme by proclaiming Rome the capital of Italy, the second famous formula of that programme, "a free Church in a free State," was to have soon found its prompt solution. Now that we have passed from the field of vague speculations to that of sound practice, not only do the King and his Ministers perceive the illusions they had been cherishing, but they are perfectly convinced that this great event, the overthrow of the temporal power, marks the commencement of a long and fierce war between Church and State. All ideas of a reconciliation are abandoned. King Victor Emmanuel's letter to the Pontiff was framed in as humble and conciliatory a manner as the dignity of a Sovereign would allow. The Pope's answer was satirically insolent and harsh. All mediation has proved useless. The *mot d'ordre* has been given. The Italian clergy all over the Peninsula are to act with the Republican party and work together for the overthrow of a sacrilegious Sovereign. The war is to be *à outrance*. The French journals, which on the breaking out of the war with Prussia had been deceiving the Parisians by allowing them to cherish the idea that an Italian army would cross the Alps and would join the armies of the Rhine, are now taking their revenge by menacing, when the war shall be over, a new French occupation to restore the Pontiff. The fact is, that the French look upon a war with the Italians as a rehabilitation for their army. The answers given by M. de Beust and by the Bavarian Minister to Signor Visconti Venosta's note announcing the resolution taken by the Government to occupy Rome are anything but satisfactory. Indeed, the Italian Minister at Munich has arrived unexpectedly at Florence, and I have reason to believe that the object of his journey is to inform the Government of the hostile spirit animating at this moment the Bavarian Court. Baron de Solvyns, the Belgian Minister at Florence, is continually remonstrating with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and has frankly stated that, in case of a European Congress meeting, his Government will never approve the Roman occupation. Amidst all these protests and menaces and declarations, how could the Italian Ministers think any longer of a reconciliation? The firm determination to carry out to the very last the national programme implies, therefore, an open war between Church and State. King Victor Emmanuel, who but a few days ago had declared in writing to the Pontiff that he addressed himself to him "with the affection of a son, the faith of a Catholic, and the loyalty of a king," finds himself unexpectedly forced upon to head with vigour and resolution this war. In case of a Congress meeting, he must find himself backed by a strong majority. He may count on England and on Prussia. Is there in Europe a Catholic nation that will sustain him?

CHINA.

The following is published by Messrs. Morgan, of Cannon-street:—"Our correspondent telegraphs us from Tientsin, on Sept. 30:—'Two of the mandarins have been transported, and fifteen men beheaded here. There has been no outbreak thus far at Kiukiang. The Government are about to send an embassy to France.'" A later telegram, Oct. 7th, received by the same firm, is to this effect:—"A Chinese army has been sent here, and the Taku forts are armed and provisioned. A chapel at Fatschou has been burned by the mob, but the provincial authorities promise its restoration."

From Bombay we learn that the departure of troops from Madras to China is being hastened.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Washington correspondents of several New York journals state positively that Mr. Morton will decline the British embassy.

An incidental result of the war has been to complete the financial ruin of the Mont Cenis Railway. Owing to the disturbed state of France, the traffic has almost entirely ceased, and recently, in one journey, only one passenger travelled. A petition for the winding up of the company is pending.

Slavery in Cuba.—New York papers have a despatch from Havannah, stating that the Emancipation Decree was published on the 27th of September. All children of slave mothers born henceforth are free; all those born since 1868 are free upon certain conditions; all slaves over sixty years of age at this date are free, and all others as soon as they

arrive at sixty years of age; all slaves belonging to the State are declared free, and all who have rendered public services during the insurrection. As soon as Cuban deputies are admitted to the Spanish Cortes, the Government will present a project of law for the complete emancipation of slaves.

A Shock of Earthquake was felt in the United States and Canada on Thursday morning. Buildings cracked in Boston and Bangor, and a rumbling was heard and a vibratory motion was distinctly felt at New York. In Quebec some chimneys fell, and two persons were injured by falling bricks. General alarm was felt, the people rushing into the street. At Montreal the shock was also severe. The judges and others in the law courts ran out precipitately, and the bells rang owing to the vibration. In Toronto the shock was less severe; but was distinctly felt. The steeple of St. George's Church was seen to sway, walls were shaken, and furniture moved from its place. At St. Katharine's Church some windows were broken. The shock appeared to travel eastward. It was first felt at Quebec at 11.15 a.m., and the vibration lasted between thirty and forty seconds.

How Characteristic!—A little incident which took place at Palermo on Wednesday last is worth mentioning if it has not found its way into the English papers. At one of the churches the body of a Christi had been taken from its cross for the purpose of being newly painted. A priest praying before it all at once cried out in a loud voice that the body was bleeding. The cry was taken up in the church and out into the street, and numbers of people rushed in to see. All declared it was bleeding, and some forthwith took it up on their shoulders, and, forming a procession, marched through the streets shouting, "Viva la religione!" As they proceeded down the Corso Vittorio Emmanuele an immense crowd saluted and joined in the cry, and when they arrived at that part of the Corso where the Strada Nuova crosses it, the crowd took to pillaging and smashing the shop-windows, and taking away whatever they could lay hold of. Upon this a company of soldiers appeared upon the scene, and quickly dispersed the mob, who left the Christi to be taken prisoner. The image was removed to the barracks, and some few people were locked up, and so the demonstration in favour of religion ended.—*Pall Mall Gazette Correspondent.*

Promised Improvements in Rome.—It may interest those who have resided at any time in the Eternal City, and who have lamented the darkness and the dirt of various localities, to learn the improvements planned, and, I hope, at last to be executed. Some of them were suggested to the Papal Government years ago, but were objected to as only practicable through the aid of foreign companies. The Corso to be prolonged from the Piazzi di Venezia to the Roman Forum; the spacious street from the Quirinal Palace to be continued down to the Corso, throwing down old buildings about the narrow street called the "Tre Ladroni"; the Piazzi di Trevi to be considerably enlarged by the demolishing of many buildings between the beautiful fountain and the Piazza della Pilotta; from Piazza Nicosia to Ponte Sant' Angelo, all the houses on the side next the river to be demolished, and a promenade to be made, "Lungo Tevere." Archæologists trust that the hand of the demolisher will respect many an old relic here and there in the line of a new street or square. There is no doubt, also, that many more interesting remains will be brought to light in the course of the works for the improvement of the city. The Jews in the Roman Ghetto were not slow in presenting their congratulations to the King of Italy upon the annexation of Rome. Even very attached friends of the Papal Government have said, "Well, one cannot blame them, poor souls." Last week the parents of the young Cohen (whose case will be remembered in England) presented themselves to the authorities, demanding the restitution of their son, Guiseppe, who had been taken from them in July, 1864, and placed first in the *Casa di Catacumeni*, afterwards in the Orphan Asylum of St. Maria in Aquiro. The rector of the asylum endeavoured to evade the inquiries of the police, alleging in excuse the flight of the youth. He had, in fact, been removed from the orphanage in *bourgeois* dress, and concealed in a private house. After some research the officers of public security, as they are called, succeeded in finding him, and he was last Saturday restored to his family. The rector of the Orphan Asylum and the person in whose house Cohen was concealed have been placed under arrest, and the whole affair is to be strictly inquired into.—*Letter in the Echo.*

Postscript.

Wednesday, October 26th, 1870.

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.

The second annual meeting of the members of this League was held yesterday at two o'clock at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, and was attended by a very numerous and influential audience.

Mr. George Dixon, M.P., the chairman of the Council, occupied the chair, supported by Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P., Mr. Vernon Harcourt, M.P., Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A.; the Revs. C. Vince, C. Clark, F.L.S., J. W. Caldicott, M.A., and S. A. Steinthal; Messrs. J. H. Chamberlain, F.R.I.B.A., Joseph Chamberlain, Alfred Field, William Harris, William Kenrick, G. B. Lloyd, M. Macfie, F.R.G.S., S. S. Mander, R. F. Martineau, C. E. Mathews, M. Maxfield, William Middlemore, J.P., A. F. Osler, F.R.S., Frederick Pennington, Alderman Ryland, Samuel Timmins, F.R.S.L., Stephen Winkworth, J. S. Wright, Jesse Collings, J. Jaffray, J.P., Francis Adams, and a number of other gentlemen.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, stated that letters of apology for non-attendance had been received from the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Andrew Johnston, M.P., Mr. Winterbotham, M.P., and Mr. George Dawson, who was absent from Birmingham; also from Professor Fawcett, M.P., and Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., both of which he read. He had also received a letter from Mr. Cremer (the hon. sec. of the Central Committee of the London Working Men's Auxiliary of the National Education League) forwarding a copy of a resolution in favour of the continuance of the League agreed to at their meeting on the 6th instant, there being fifty-six members present from the different districts of London. There was also a letter from Mr. Taylor, the acting secretary of the National Education League for Ireland, expressing great regret that in consequence of the short notice given to them it would not be possible for a deputation to attend the meeting, which otherwise would have been the case.

Mr. Jesse Collings (Hon. Sec.) read the report, which details the various proceedings adopted by the Executive Committee since the formation of the League in October, 1869, and deals specifically with the events connected with the Education Bill of last session, which it regards as an unsatisfactory measure. The committee congratulate themselves upon the progress which the principles of the League have made with the public, and they state that "The number of branches now amounts to 141. In addition to these, twenty trade societies have joined the League, and thirteen workmen's auxiliaries have been formed." It further appears from the report of the Executive Committee that "upwards of 300 open public meetings have been held on behalf of the League, and about half of that number have been attended by deputations from the central office or by members of the Executive Committee, Admission to all these meetings has been perfectly free, and at all of them, with the exception of four, the resolutions proposed on behalf of the League have been carried either unanimously or by overwhelming majorities." After stating that the League monthly paper had had a circulation of about 25,000 copies per month, and that in addition thereto "a great number of pamphlets, handbills, and other publications had been issued amounting in the aggregate to not less than one million," the report concludes as follows:—

A meeting of your committee was held on the 7th of September, at which it was resolved to maintain the organisation of the League for the following purposes:—

1. To assist in putting the Education Act in operation so as to secure as far as possible the establishment of unsectarian, compulsory, and free schools.

2. To promote amendments in the Act, by converting the permissive into obligatory clauses, and securing the recognition of the principle of religious equality in rate-aided schools.

3. To resist the increase of Parliamentary grants to sectarian schools.

4. To watch the progress of educational legislation in reference to the Irish system.

5. To influence public and Parliamentary opinion by meetings, publications, petitions, and all other available means in favour of a national, unsectarian, compulsory, and free system of education; and with this view to secure the return of members to the House of Commons pledged to support the principles advocated by the League.

A circular was issued to the various branch committees enumerating the above points, upon which your committee had resolved to base their future action. The replies which have been received are unanimous in their approval and offers of support, and they justify your committee in recommending that the organisation of the League be maintained for the purpose of securing the great object for which it was inaugurated a year ago, the establishment of a national system of education, unsectarian, compulsory, and free.

Mr. Collings also read the treasurer's report, from which it appeared that the year amounted to 6,508*l.* 11s. 9d., and the expenses to 5,871*l.* 6s. 1d., leaving in hand a balance of 537*l.* 5s. 8d., against which there are considerable liabilities, the exact amount of which has not yet been ascertained.

The Chairman in moving "that the reports be read and adopted," referred to the arduous nature of the duties which had been performed by the Executive Committee and officers of the League, and directed attention to the necessity of continuing its operations not only upon the same, but, if it were possible, upon an extended scale. He pointed out that the four leading principles of the League were embodied in the Government Education Bill, viz., it provided that the education should be national, compulsory, unsectarian, and free; but they were presented in such a disfigured and sickly form that it was almost difficult to acknowledge their own children, and it was for them (the members of the League) to see that those minute forms were nourished and developed until they had a life worthy of them. Speaking of the defects of the bill he (the Chairman) said—"We always considered that it was wise and generous to announce from the commencement that we had no desire to interfere with existing voluntary schools, but we also said, even more loudly, that we considered it was necessary that the existing system should not be encouraged and strengthened, but that it should be gradually supplanted, and therefore I consider that it is one of the greatest defects of the bill that it should have given a Government sanction—the sanction of the Houses of Parliament—to an increase of Parliamentary grants to existing voluntary schools—(Hear, hear)—and I feel that it was a bitter thing for us to have to swallow, that we should listen to the leader of the great Liberal party—a man to whom we owe the Irish Church Bill—and that we should have to accept from him such a clause as this, which appears to me to be a deviation from those principles of religious liberty and equality which we thought he would lead us completely and entirely to gain. (Hear, hear.) I will not dwell upon this part of the question, because I am glad to know that a strong Nonconformist Committee has been formed, and re-formed, that will take up this question, and I hope deal with it effectually. That committee I shall always be very glad indeed to assist, and I hope that I may be able in my place in Parliament to second the efforts that it will make throughout the country." (Hear, hear.) He (the Chairman) then referred at length to the maintenance and management of existing schools, contending that their constitution was such as to render them unable to do the work required of them. Notwithstanding the argument of some people that the teaching in Government schools might be religious without being sectarian, it was not to be forgotten that less than twelve months ago, not only the Manchester Union, but the leaders of the Conservative party, and even Mr. Gladstone himself, expressed the opinion, over and over again, that religious teaching without being sectarian would be no religious teaching at all, and Mr. Dixon maintained that owing to the permissive nature of the bill the teaching in the country districts would almost unavoidably become sectarian, and time and energies would be spent in contests and strife for seats at the school boards, whereas both might be far better spent if devoted exclusively to the secular teaching of the children. Looking at the matter broadly, he believed that the Act would probably work in large towns, but that in agricultural districts it would be almost a dead letter, and there would be a constant influx into the large towns from the badly educated and ignorant agricultural districts, and so an injustice would be perpetrated. It was therefore the duty of the League to help the agricultural districts, and do all that could be done to enforce the working of the Act throughout the whole of the country. He hoped that before long a branch of the League would be established in every populous district. "Our opponents (said he) have a most active and perfect organisation everywhere. (Hear, hear.) They desire that things should remain as they are. They have not the motive to work—they are satisfied with the increased grant. If we want that to be done which we think desirable, we must do it ourselves. I think we ought to extend our branches to every part of the country, and I hope that the branches will determine that with the greatest possible amount of energy and promptitude they will labour to form a school board, not only in their own locality, but in all the districts contiguous thereto over which they have any influence. And then, of course, it will follow that every true Leaguer will seek to get on the school boards the men that he will think the best calculated to carry out a proper system of education." It would be the duty of the branches to collect and transmit to the Central Office the largest possible amount of information with reference to the difficulties experienced in bringing the Act into operation and in the working of the Act, so as to enable the League to take efficient action in Parliament." He (the chairman) had given notice last session to introduce a bill into the House of Commons early next session to amend the present Act; not foreseeing that the country would be so engrossed with the stupendous events now transpiring on the continent, nor did he think, at that time, that the Education Department would find it so difficult and be so slow in putting the country in motion upon the subject. He had hoped that ere this Birmingham would have had a school board at work and that a sufficient amount of experience would be gained to enable amendments of an important character to be called for early next session; even now it might be possible—and desirable—to bring forward an amending bill next year, but whatever was done would depend to a great extent upon the manner in which the various branches of the League furnished the information which would have to be the basis of such action. "At all events, (said he) if we should not be able to bring forward an amending bill, you may rely upon it that the question of Elementary Education in England will be dealt with in Parliament, in more ways than one. Certainly we shall have to vote for the increased grants, and then there will be an opportunity for expressing the confirmed opinion of the people of this country, and I think it not improbable that we may have other Acts. I don't know that an Irish Act will be brought forward, but probably a Scotch Bill will, and I hope we shall think it our duty to render all the assistance in our power to those Liberal Irish and Scotch members—(Hear, hear)—who may ask us to try to modify the Government measure for those countries in the most liberal sense possible. If ever there should be an Irish Education Bill brought forward, and if in that measure, there should be, as some people suppose there will, a tendency to interfere with the present system, so as to bring about less of a separation of secular and religious teaching than was originally contemplated by the framers of the Irish system, I trust that there will be but one voice in the League, and that the League and the Nonconformist Committee will work harmoniously together, and that we shall never rest satisfied until we prevent anything on the part of the Government which should tend to increase the payment by the state for the religious teaching of the people. Now, I will conclude by saying that I hope that we shall all of us work, not simply to carry out this Act in

such a manner as that it will give to the people that quantity or that quality of education which has hitherto been given, but that our standard of education will be far higher than anything that has yet entered into the mind of the Church party to conceive. What we have to do is to seek to give to all the children of England such an education as will fit them for any post that the State has to offer. I was told by a Dean a few weeks ago, that there is not a single peasant's child in Denmark who is not educated up to the point of being able, if he so choose, and the people choose, to take his seat in the Danish Parliament. That which Denmark has done, that which has been done also in Saxony and in other parts of the world, may unquestionably be done in England, and I hope that we shall feel more strongly than we have ever done, that in working for this great end we shall not be deterred by any considerations for the parents of the children—(Hear, hear)—that we shall take those young innocent creatures under Government care, and determine that they shall have that education which is their right—(hear, hear)—and which it is to be the supreme interest of the State that they should have—(applause)—and I hope that we shall not consider that either sectarian difficulties or the financial question ought to be allowed to stand for a moment in the way of this great object; that we shall use the whole of our influence to remove every obstruction that lies in our path; that we shall consider that the end we have in view is so great and noble, so pressing, and so important, that we shall not count the sacrifices that we have to make, whether they be individual or national, but that we shall willingly undertake any amount of labour and make any sacrifice in order that we may obtain it. (Great applause.)

Mr. Vernon Harcourt, M.P.: Mr. Chairman, by the very able and careful and prudent speech which you have just addressed to us you have earned a fresh title to that confidence which the League has always extended, and, I am sure, always will extend, to you as its chief. We meet to-day, no doubt, under very interesting circumstances. When the League met last year there had been no education measure, and it was the object of the League to indicate the principles upon which they thought an education measure ought to be founded. Well, Sir, an education measure was introduced, and it has passed by a large majority of the House of Commons. We are obliged to confess that that measure in a very large degree deviates from the principles which we desire to see introduced into the bill, but, at the same time, we, as members of a country constitutionally governed by Parliamentary majorities, are bound, to a great extent, to respect the decision of Parliament, and I was very happy to hear from you and to see in this Report, sir, that the expressed intention of the League is fairly and honestly to give a trial to the measure which Parliament has passed. The object of the League, as I understand you, is to try to the greatest extent to develope the merits of the bill—if it has merits—to ascertain the defects—if there are defects—and when those defects are ascertained, to endeavour to remedy them. (Hear, hear.) That I understand to be the new policy of the League after the passing of the education measure of last session. Now, no doubt the League will be attacked, as it has been attacked before, by those methods which seem to be considered essential to the carrying-on of Parliamentary and political conflicts in this country—I mean by the abuse of your opponents. We shall be called, as we have been called before, atheists and infidels, and other names of that character. Well, those who aspire to take part in public affairs are extremely unfit for such a position if they pay any attention to personal vituperation and the best method by which we can meet arguments of that character is not to attempt to reciprocate them. (Laughter and cheers.) Well, now, sir, I gladly pass over the greater part of this report, which deals with the past, for there is an old and wise maxim which says that it is no use crying after spilt milk; and, therefore, I will make no reference whatever to the history of last session, except by simply applying to it the sentence, "let bygones be bygones." We have got a measure which, at all events, has this advantage, that it recognises the great principle of the duty of giving education to every child in the country. Whether the methods which that measure adopts for that purpose are the best that might be adopted or not, is, of course, a matter upon which opinions will differ, and upon which the League has already formed its opinion with reference to that particular measure; but that measure, at all events, includes one thing which I think is of immense advantage in what is taking place now, and what will take place before next January. We are certain of this, that we shall ascertain that which we have never doubted, but which has been denied and disputed—the gross and lamentable deficiency of education in this country. That is a thing which must come out in the investigations that are to take place, and I think one of the first duties of the League will be, by operating upon public opinion, to make the country understand the extent of that deficiency. (Hear, hear.) Now, you, sir, have very wisely alluded to the evil of permissive legislation. Permissive legislation as it seems to me, is merely rather a complimentary phrase, for what, if it were more accurately expressed, should be called Parliamentary cowardice. (Applause.) We have permissive legislation because the members of the Legislature do not dare to have a distinct opinion, and therefore they endeavour to shovel over to each locality that responsibility which they are not prepared to accept. (Cheers.) That is what is meant by permissive legislation. Well now, is there to be a school board in each place? One would have thought that was a matter upon which the House of Commons might have had an opinion. But what do they do? They send it down to each borough in the country to be fought out there in the month of October or November, and actually, whereas if they had decided that there must be a school board appointed, people would have set to work to form the best school board they could. You begin with a party and theological fight, and sow the very seed and basis of your educational system in that which you ought most to have desired to avoid—which is a partisan warfare. Well, what is the consequence of that? You begin by a contest, and instead of having that which I, for one, should desire to have, a school board—not of any party complexion, but fairly distributed among all classes and opinions in the country, the very result of the fight, whether there shall be any school board or not, leads to that party fight which is sure to carry its complexion into the school board when it is formed. Now, that is one of the practical evils of this permissive legislation of which we have already had experience. Well, then, there is another thing—the question whether we are to have school boards or not, has brought on another axis of that disease of which we had a good deal of experience of last year, which I may call, delusive statistics. (Laughter and applause.) Now I have never seen that old saying, that "There is nothing so false as facts except figures," so well illustrated as in the statistics of education which were collected all over the country for the purpose of being used as an argument against the establishment of school boards. Now, one of the misfortunes of this bill is, that though the word "efficiency" does creep into one clause somewhere in rather an obscure manner, the foundation of it is what is called "school accommodation," which I find a great many people understand to mean mere school room—a mere brick-and-mortar question—and a party who are opposed to the views which we entertain, seem to consider that national education consists in eight cubical feet of space—(great laughter and cheers)—whether that contains a child or not, and whether that child can or cannot read and write seems not to be considered at all a material part of the purpose—(renewed laughter),—and after the school accommodation has been provided it is settled there is to be no school board. Now, I do not say that that is the true interpretation of the Act. I hope it is not. We have to see whether it is or not; but I know in my part of the country a good many people entertain that opinion, and, I might almost say, cherish that hope. (Great laughter.) Now, the consequence of this view of the question is that there is being a great rush made upon building grants. There are plans of new schoolrooms and so on, quite irrespective of the question of what is to be done with them when they are built, or where they are to be built. I mean whether they are to be built of the most convenient size, or in the most convenient locality, but in order to sum up the eight cubical feet there are these plans of accommodation. Well, now it reminds me very much of a story I once read—I think—of the Empress Catharine, who was going from Moscow to the Crimea, and her Prime Minister desired to give her a good impression of the condition of her empire, and so a few days before she arrived at the place through which she was to travel there was run up a town which had only a wall in front which represented houses. There were no real houses, and there was no real population, but the Empress had an impression that she was going through a highly populated country, and it seems to me that this is the sort of thing which a good many people desire to do with reference to school accommodation. Now, the worst of this method of proceeding seems to me to be this, that it is a very great waste of time and a verygreat waste of money—(Hear, hear)—because you are going to build half-a-dozen schools where you might build two or three. It is not at all necessary that they should be built in the best place for the population, and if people were only wasting their own money there could be no objection to it, because that is a thing which every Englishman has a right to do. But then you must remember that this is to be supplemented by the building grants, and you are leaving the matter to the volunteers, without any consideration of the interests of the whole community generally, as would be the case by the school board. Of course, a school board would consider what was desirable for the whole town—where it should be, what should be its size, and how to deal with it. It does not at all follow that your volunteers will regard it from that point of view; but so long as they make a school, begin it, or get the plans for it, they are to have their share of the public money for that purpose. That seems to me to be a very great waste of power and money. Mr. Harcourt then dealt with the question of the "efficiency of education," and gave an instance of "a fair average school," in which there had been an examination a short time since. The result of the examination was that, out of fifty-three children in the school, not one child passed in spelling. Three children passed in good reading, and seven in moderate reading. All the rest were entirely imperfect in reading. With reference to the religious difficulty, he agreed with Professor Fawcett that the League had better devote itself to other points of its programme. On the question of unsectarian teaching, Mr. Harcourt thought that the amendment proposed by Mr. Cowper-Temple having been accepted by a majority in Parliament, an attempt should be made to work it, and to see whether it could accomplish its object. If it did so, it would be wrong to oppose it; if it did not, then its opponents would be strengthened by its failure. In conclusion, he said:—

I see a paragraph in the report which states that the object of the League should be "to influence public and Parliamentary opinion by meetings, publications, &c." Well, that of course is the most legitimate way in which, in this country, public opinion can be operated upon; and I have always observed that, sooner or later, members of Parliament feel it necessary to follow public opinion, and it is their business in different methods to ascertain what that opinion is—(laughter)—but there is one sentence at the end of this paragraph—"With this view to secure the return of members to the House of Commons, pledged to support the principles advocated by the League." Well, I do not suppose it was intended, but it might be misinterpreted and misunderstood. I am sure it was not intended, that that should mean that the League proposes to impose a sort of Shibboleth upon members of Parliament which should be in any way inconsistent with the independence of their action upon questions on which they may conscientiously differ in certain points with the programme of the League. I am quite sure if any course of that kind were adopted, there would be a very natural jealousy or objection on the part of the House of Commons collectively and its individual members. I have already detained the meeting too long. (Cries of "No no.") I can only say that I have great pleasure in seconding the report, more especially with a view to the future action of the League, and I am quite sure that the League, which has already rendered great services to the cause of education, will render still greater services if, in adhering to the same principles, it promotes them with patience, with prudence, and with moderation in their application. (Applause.)

The Rev. Mr. Symes (Plymouth), on behalf of the Plymouth branch of the League, moved the following amendment, which he supported in a speech of considerable length, and which elicited from the audience frequent expressions of approval:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the National League with regard to its future operations in the cause of education would be greatly improved by its distinct acceptance of "secular" in the place of "unsectarian" education.

Mr. McLellan (Birmingham) seconded the amendment, and claimed the indulgence of the meeting in addressing it, upon the ground that he was an Irishman and had been educated in Ireland.

Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., rose to a point of order. He wished to know before the discussion proceeded whether Mr. Symes desired the report to be rejected, as the amendment moved by that gentleman appeared to him (Mr. Dale) to put the report entirely out of the power of the meeting.

The Chairman replied that the carrying of the amendment would involve the acceptance of the report with the alteration of the word "sectarian."

After some further discussion, the part of the resolution in favour of the reception of the report only, was put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. McLellan then proceeded with his remarks, arguing that even if the views of the League were adopted in this country, the Irish priest would demand—and he had a right to demand—that if denominational instruction were given in England it should be extended to Ireland, and that Cardinal Cullen and the Pope would lend their assistance to secure that result. He then proceeded to quote from the Douai version of the Bible, which drew forth signs of impatience which caused him to resume his seat.

Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P., said he could but vote with Mr. Symes if he pressed his resolution, but he (Sir Charles) thought it was better and would be very much more advisable that Mr. Symes should not press it to a division now but leave it for future years, when they had got the bill into some sort of working order—if it would work—or had pointed out all its defects, some of which had been touched upon that day. If the bill would not work, then when they had got further and begun to see their way more clearly into the future, then, rather than now, would be the time for raising this point, and, if necessary, to secede upon it. (Applause.)

The Rev. Mr. Solly thought he could save the time of the meeting by making a few remarks upon the amendment, rather than by moving the resolution which it had been his intention to submit to the meeting. He had abstained at previous meetings of the League from stating his views, for the reasons which had been very clearly stated by Sir Charles Dilke. The rev. gentleman argued at considerable length in favour of religious education, and contended that "if a child has a right to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic, *a fortiori*, he has a right to learn his responsibility to God." On the whole, he thought the line taken by Sir Charles Dilke was a very judicious one. The plan proposed by the rev. gentleman in the resolution he had intended to submit, was that the Privy Council should prepare lesson books which, if approved by school boards, should be introduced into the schools.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain (Chairman of the Executive Committee) believed that the results of the proposed alteration, if carried, would be the secession of members—the loosing of the bonds by which funds were drawn to the association—and that the question would have to be fought by the League for several years to come, instead of its attention being devoted to the great question of compulsion and free schools.

Mr. Lloyd Jones said, the discussion upon the words "secular" and "unsectarian" reminded him of a poet whose mind was very much disturbed as to the form which one line should take in a future poem—whether it should be, "He sings his song with such a grace," or "His song he sings with such a grace." Instead of waiting his time upon such a matter, he entreated the meeting to get to practical

work and see what could be done to further the great objects in view.

The Rev. M. Symes declined to accept the responsibility of doing anything which would endanger the stability of the League, and therefore he withdrew the amendment.

Captain Maxse, R.A., (Southampton) thought that the present programme of the League represented a very rickety platform, and that as an association it lost much influence owing to its inconsistency. It was his, intention, however to continue to render it his support for the noble work it had already performed.

Mr. Shaen (London) explained that the unanimous vote of the London branch accepting the future programme of the League had been obtained upon the distinct understanding that they were to be at perfect liberty to give their own interpretation to the word unsectarian, which they did by interpreting its meaning as "secular." The London branch would go on as cordially as it had hitherto done, and would not think of withdrawing its support from the League.

The original resolution, that the report be approved, was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P., moved the following resolution:—

That the Executive Committee be requested to obtain and circulate such information as may be useful in the establishment and working of school boards. That the Branch Committees be requested to promote the formation of school boards in their respective districts, and when formed to secure the election of members favourable to the principles of the League, and that they also be requested to collect and transmit to the central office information respecting the difficulties experienced in bringing the Education Act into operation, and in effectually working it, so as to enable the Executive Committee to take such Parliamentary or other action as may seem to be desirable.

After a remark on the other clauses of the resolution, Sir Charles referred to the importance of inviting information:—

One instance has already been given here to-day of the necessity for such information and for such action, but another one came to my notice within a few days past, and no doubt all of us will be having such cases brought before us daily. The case that came before me was one that seems almost incredible. In an important diocese in the South of England the Bishop and a majority of the clergy hold, and have publicly expressed their opinion, that a school board, formed under the clause which enables a school board to be formed (first sub-section of the 12th clause) and a board to be elected, would not have the power to impose compulsion; and it seems almost incredible to any one who remembers that the very reason why that clause was inserted was in order to give the power of compulsion. It seems to be almost incredible that a Bishop in a diocese, not far from London, should take such a view as that, but he took that view, and it was in print not more than a week ago. With instances of this kind before us of the ignorance prevailing with reference to the Act and the steps necessary to work it, I do not think there can be any difference of opinion as to that part of the resolution, but there is one clause on which there may possibly be some difference of opinion: it is the clause a portion of which says it is the duty of the branch committees, when the school boards are formed in their districts, to secure the election of members favourable to the principles of the same. Now, there may possibly be some difference of opinion upon those words. For my part, I could not, if any very rigid interpretation were to be placed on those words, be a party to moving them. . . . I think that the meeting will see that they are to be moved and carried (if carried) in an elastic sense; that everywhere a branch committee exists, it should, as a branch committee of the League, take a prominent part in the election. It is quite conceivable, for instance, in London—I do not think it would be by any means a wise plan—for either the branches in the London district or any of the districts, or the sub-committee in operation in London, to put out a list of approved candidates. I think, from my knowledge of London, that would not be a wise course. On the other hand, the branch committees may doubtless act quietly—not acting too loudly, not protesting too much, not insisting too much upon the adherence of the candidates they may favour to every principle of the League, or every point of the League platform. Undoubtedly, it may be of much use in promoting persons generally favourable to the views of the League, as they will be in collecting the information which we need. There is no doubt that the strongest of all the reasons which can be given for calling, by a circular, special attention of the branch committees to the collection of information, is that what we were asked for on points on which we failed—so far as we failed, as compared with other bodies which work against us—was the difficulty of getting precise information. We could not attempt to rival the extremely accurate information at the disposal of the Education Department itself. I can see no reason why in districts where they do not understand it—either the principles on which it was framed or the principle of the Act itself—our branch committees should not be asked to supplement the almost necessary ignorance of the Education Department as to what goes on in those districts, and so have presented to us in their reports a valuable body of information on which Mr. Dixon and those who second his efforts in Parliament may act. I beg to move this resolution as the most practical result of the discussion of the meeting, and trust that it will be carried without any loss of time.

The Rev. S. A. Steinthal, of Manchester, in seconding the resolution, stated his belief that the League had a still a very important work before it, and that it could be of very great use in promoting the election of suitable men to the school boards in the various districts represented by the League. Not only was there great complaint against the present system of education, but a far more serious point, which was that it was thoroughly insufficient in quality. Many men were put forward because they were good Tories or good Whigs—simply for their negative qualities—instead of being, as they should be, men acquainted with education, and able to make schools thoroughly efficient.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. W. Caldicott, M.A. (Bristol), moved,—

That in the opinion of this meeting it is most desirable that the regulations of the Educational Department relating to the formation and election of school boards should be issued without further delay, in order to enable electors in parishes to apply under Section 12 for the appointment of school boards.

It was clear to him that the principle of excluding denominational schools had been at the very root of all the work of the League from its first foundation. At a time like this, when you have had everywhere and by all classes of people a plain fact admitted and confessed,—that the present system is a failure, what is the meaning of this proposal to hand over to the present system an increased grant from the public funds? What purpose is such a proposal to serve? It can serve but one purpose, it can enable these schools to go on for a few years longer, failing as they have failed for many years past. For surely no one, sir, supposes so long as the cause of the failure remains, that anything but failure can be the result in the future. And the cause of failure is not very far to seek. It does not lie in the inability or incompetency of the masters of these schools; for everywhere their inability is fully recognised. It does not lie in mistakes made in the management of those schools by persons who maintain and support them It is an error in principle. (Hear, hear.) It is the principle of denominationalism itself that is in fault, for, as you, sir, have very well pointed out, how can any denominational system of education be worked, that is not, at the same time, voluntary?—and how can any voluntary system exist, that is not dependant upon the varying influences and the character of individuals. He concluded by saying:—

When the denominational system has failed, as we every one of us here know it must fail, what, I say, will become of your children then? What can become of them except that they shall fall back again into the same state of ignorance, and of idleness, and of mischief, and of sin, from which it is the first and last object of this League to insist upon it that Parliament shall do its best to rescue them. I say, Sir, that that is what you have had happen in England already; I say that that is what you must have happen in England again if you are to lean on this broken reed. The denominational system has the practical effect of increasing the present grant to schools of this kind—that is the meaning of any proposal to increase these grants—it means that you shall reward failure in the past by providing, by means of a scandalous waste of public money, a fresh and inevitable failure in the future. (Cheers.) I move the resolution I have read.

Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., said: I am sure I shall consult the convenience of the meeting, especially after the admirable speech of Mr. Caldicott, who has rendered any further observations upon this resolution unnecessary, by simply seconding that resolution, which I do most cordially. The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Charles Vince, without remark, moved:—

That this meeting has heard with satisfaction that an Education League has been formed for Ireland on a basis similar to that of the National Education League, and strongly sympathises with its promoters in their efforts to prevent the overthrow of the present system in Ireland, and the substitution of the denominational system in its stead.

Mr. Wilkinson seconded this resolution, which was also carried unanimously.

Mr. Alfred Field moved—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to oppose by all means the proposed increase of Government grants to denominational schools."

He thought that the reasonableness of this resolution would be perfectly obvious to every one. Mr. Forster used a sufficient amount of resolute firmness in carrying his bill through the House. He also claimed for himself a sufficient amount of freedom for the Education Department, and certainly in proportion the freedom that the Education Department has got, is their responsibility to the people of England, that they should carry out the Bill well, and that they should promptly inform the country of what are the provisions that they will add from the Educational Department to the bill.

Mr. Lloyd Jones having seconded the resolution, the same was carried unanimously.

Captain Maxse, R.N., moved—

That Mr. George Dixon, M.P., be requested to act as Chairman of the Council, Mr. John Jaffray, J.P., as Treasurer, and Mr. Jesse Collins as Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year.

That the retiring Council be re-elected with the addition of all members of branch committees, and that the officers and the following gentlemen constitute the Executive Committee, with power to add to their number.

The names were not read.

A Representative of the Halifax branch of the League said that he, with the Rev. Thomas Michael, had been deputed to attend the meeting to support the views of the Plymouth branch, but their resolution having been withdrawn, he had now only to say that, without intending any disrespect to Birmingham, he hoped that in future the League would be less Birmingham and more British.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain replied, and the proceedings shortly after terminated.

THE WAR.

THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ARMISTICE.

M. Thiers has received his appointment as negotiator from the members of the Government at Tours, who have also instructed him as to the conditions on which they would accept an armistice. He has, however, to proceed to Paris and come to a similar understanding with M. Jules Favre, General Trochu, and the other members of the Government there; after which he will proceed to the King's head-quarters and meet Count Bismark. Last night he had not left Tours, but was waiting to receive a pass to Paris from the German authorities. In the meanwhile the Germans are daily bringing up their siege guns and placing them in position around the French capital.

(From the *Times* Special Correspondent.)

Berlin, Oct. 25.

Yesterday Bazaine's negotiations with Prussia were continued independently of, and in opposition to, the proceedings of the Republican Government.

Schelestadt capitulated yesterday, and 2,400 prisoners and 120 guns were taken.

The railway from Orleans to Paris will shortly be repaired.

Paris is being explored by Prussian balloons.

Bazaine's first proposition through Boyer was that he and his field army should be permitted to leave Metz on condition of not fighting against Germany for three months. The original garrison of Metz was to retain possession of the fortress. This proposition was declined, but the negotiations may not yet be regarded as at an end.

Sixty French officers on parole have just reported themselves to the Prussian commanders before Metz, requesting to be sent to Germany, as the Republicans will not permit them to keep their word of honour.

Orleans must pay a contribution of 1,500,000f., Etampes pays 40,000f. for cutting telegraph wires.

At Tours a young girl in fantastic garb, calling herself a successor of Jeanne d'Arc, and carrying a flag with the Holy Virgin, is trying to inspirit the troops.

Her Majesty's consent to the marriage of the Princess Louise with the Marquis of Lorne is officially announced in last night's *Gazette*.

Parliament has been prorogued to December 13th, and the two Houses of Convocation to the following day.

By the death of Lord Avonmore, Major the Hon. W. C. Yelverton, whose name will be remembered in connection with the Yelverton marriage case, succeeds to the title.

The London School Board.—With regard to the candidates for the London School Board (the elections for which are likely to take place the last week in November) it is announced that Mr. John Stuart Mill declines to stand, as also do Professor Huxley, Mr. Vernon Lushington, Q.C., Professor Maurice. Mr. C. E. Mudie is mentioned for Marylebone; Mr. George Potter is receiving cordial support in Westminster, and, as will be seen from an advertisement elsewhere, Mr. Joseph Guedalla has issued his address to the ratepayers of the Marylebone division. Miss Garrett, M.D., has also published her address as a candidate for Marylebone. Mrs. William Grey, of 18, Cadogan-place, is a candidate for the Chelsea division. The Wesleyan and Sunday School Union bodies are hard at work, and propose to run a candidate for each of the ten boroughs.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The Corn-Exchange was fairly attended by millers, and the tone of the market was firm. Nevertheless, the business transacted was on a somewhat limited scale. There was a limited supply of English and foreign wheat on sale. Sales were effected steadily, and the advanced rates of Monday last were thoroughly maintained. Barley was in moderate supply and request for all descriptions, at firm quotations. The malt trade was not active, but prices were unchanged. Oats, the supply of which was good, experienced a moderate inquiry, but at fully the late advance. Beans and peas were purchased to a fair extent, on former terms. Flour was in limited request. Nevertheless, Monday's currencies were well maintained.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	1,130	—	—	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	9,190	850	—	16,390	1,000 brls.

COMPARATIVE QUANTITIES AND PRICES OF GRAIN.

For the week ending Oct. 21.	Qrs.	Av. s. d.	For the corresponding week last year.	Qrs.	Av. s. d.
Wheat ..	56,786	47 3	Wheat ..	52,900	46 1
Barley ..	76,581	36 5	Barley ..	57,464	38 6
Oats ..	2,915	22 2	Oats ..	2,923	24 2

Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., on Army Reform.—Mr Trevelyan, M.P., in a lecture on army reform, delivered in Newcastle on Monday night, said he intended to place the following depositions before the House of Commons early next session:—First—That as an essential preliminary to any effective reorganisation of the army, the sale and purchase of commissions shall be extinguished; second—That the tenure of the Command-in-Chief shall be so arranged that the existing Ministry can freely and without scruple avail itself of the best administrative talent existing at the time in the profession; third—that the military, social, and financial interests of this country demand that short services in the ranks shall be the rule of the army; fourth—That the Line and militia shall be amalgamated on a local basis.

SIR T. F. BUXTON has issued the following ADDRESS to the Electors of the Borough of Hackney: —LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—To the RATEPAYERS of the BOROUGH of HACKNEY.

GENTLEMEN,—You will shortly be called upon to elect five members to represent you on the School Board of the Metropolis.

I beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the honour of becoming one of your Representatives.

I am well aware of the heavy duties which will devolve upon the Board. They are no less than to bring the means of education within reach of all the children of London.

In all the arrangements of the schools under their care the managers must be careful to meet the convenience and to conciliate the goodwill of the parents of the children.

I recognise the full right of the parents to object to any religious teaching or reading of the Bible, but I see no reason to assume that they are generally opposed to such instruction.

The rates of your districts already constitute a frightful burden. It is of great importance that no heavier addition be made to them than is absolutely necessary to accomplish the work that lies before you.

I remain, your obedient servant

Brick-lane, Oct. 14, 1870. T. FOWELL BUXTON.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

To the ELECTORS of the TOWER HAMLETS.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to offer myself as one of your Representatives on the School Board of London.

The importance of the task set before it must make any one diffident of undertaking such a responsibility, but, if elected, my best energies will be devoted to the work.

I am not without experience of the educational needs of the East of London, nor of the efforts that have been made in the past to supply them.

I believe that it is possible to give religious teaching, founded upon the broad Christian principles of the Bible, which, at the same time, shall not favour one sect above another. This is proved by practical experience in the British schools, and it is in the main their system which I hope to see adopted in all the newly-created schools.

It will be impossible for the Central Board to attend to the details of management of all the schools in London, and I hope that the managers of existing schools will still retain a large share of the control to which their experience entitles them.

I am a Churchman, but I do not ask for your votes on that ground, as I expect that on the religious question there will be no radical difference of opinion between members of the Board who are Churchmen and those who belong to other Christian denominations.

I believe that direct compulsion may be safely adopted in London and other large towns. If I am elected I shall esteem it the greatest honour to belong to the foremost Education Board of the country, and one which will probably serve as a model for all others.

I am, your faithful servant,

EDWARD NORTH BUXTON.

Spitalfields, Oct. 13, 1870.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

To the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of MARYLEBONE and the PARISH of ST. JOHN, HAMPSTEAD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg respectfully to solicit your Votes and support as a Candidate for the honour of representing your District at the School Board for London.

If elected, I shall enter upon my duties with the sole desire of practically forwarding one of the most beneficent works of modern times, and of devoting to that work the best capabilities I possess. It will be my endeavour loyally and impartially—conforming both to the letter and the spirit of the law—to aid in administering the great measure of last Session.

As that measure, however, in effect remits to localities the decision of certain principles, it becomes necessary for Candidates to avow themselves on these points. I may say, then, that I would have national education undenominational and compulsory. I care little about the advancement of this or that abstract set of opinions. I wish simply to get the conditions which will ensure to every child, at a small charge or at none, sound elementary instruction. I am quite in favour of the open Bible being read in all schools, with the safeguards provided by the Act for the children of those who may conscientiously object. In acknowledging the supreme claims of religion, whilst carefully avoiding any denominational bias, we are giving a fair and harmonious interpretation to the intentions and provisions of the Act.

Remunerative, in the best and most patriotic sense, as must be all expenditure incurred in supplying educational wants, it must at the same time be remembered that the ratepayers of the Metropolis are already weighed down by a crushing load of taxation. The London School Board will have to combine the highest efficiency with an economy which, from the first, must be of the most searching character.

I think I may say that I enjoy the confidence and am acquainted with the views of the classes more immediately concerned in the due administration of the Act. We have laboured together in the past to obtain educational legislation; I am satisfied that we shall labour equally together in the future to secure the full fruits of that legislation.

As a resident in your district, I shall always be ready to watch over any local interests which may be involved in the action of the London School Board.

It is my sincere hope that all sects and all parties will cordially unite to seize upon the grand opportunity now before us of reaching and removing that dense mass of ignorance, otherwise so fraught with peril to the social and political life of our common country.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

JOSEPH GUEDALLA.

16, Mincing-lane, E.C., Oct. 24, 1870.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"G. Fraser."—Thanks. We will insert his communication next week.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THE hopes founded on the telegrams o Monday are almost at an end. It seems that our Government interposed at the suggestion of the French Ministers at Tours—one of the belligerents—with the proposal of an armistice, that they eagerly undertook thus to do their best to avert the bombardment of Paris, and that they have proposed an armistice without conditions. Progress has been made thus far: M. Thiers—not the best of envoys to a German camp one would think—is to go to Versailles as M. Favre went to Ferrières. Count Bismark is nothing loth to talk over matters—is, in fact, anxious to make peace; but then he sticks in principle to his own terms. When M. Favre was at Ferrières the Prussian Chancellor issued his circular claiming territorial compensation; and now that M. Thiers is going to Versailles, the *North German Gazette*, the Count's especial organ, proclaims that "the King's Ministers and Generals know how to appreciate the value of the blood that has been shed and the exertions that have been made by the army and the country." There is, however, this difference between the two diplomatic events—M. Thiers receives a safe-conduct to pass through the Prussian lines, to consult the members of the Government in Paris, after which he will return to the King's Head-quarters. It has been said that the veteran French statesman is convinced that the further resistance of France is useless. But the report may be doubted. At all events, M. Guizot, a statesman equally experienced and more moderate than M. Thiers, declares in a letter to the *Times* of this morning that France will not consent to dismemberment. She "will neither submit to conquest nor conquer." "France," he says, "is no longer ambitious, but she is still proud, and she will not lose her old activity." She "has material resources which no disaster can exhaust, and moral courage which will be, not destroyed, but developed by her reverses." Professor Max Muller thinks that if England could prevail on France to admit the principle of territorial cession as far as it is required for the security of the western frontier of Germany peace could be made, and details could be arranged by a Military Commission. Thus far, however, we have no evidence that anybody in authority in France will admit that "principle."

Meanwhile, there appear to have been some negotiations simultaneously going on between Count Bismark and Marshal Bazaine, with a view to the arrangement of an armistice or terms of peace more favourable to the invaders and in the interests of the Napoleon dynasty. It has been emphatically stated that the Empress, "as being still the head of the French State until deposed by a legally-constituted Assembly," was a party to these negotiations. The Empress did, indeed, it is quite certain, give an interview to General Boyer, the envoy of Marshal Bazaine, but according to an authentic statement "he was received with no more favour than were the emissaries of M. de Bismark on a previous occasion," when the proposal for a cession of French territory was repudiated "with energy." In a word, the Empress steadily and honourably declines to increase the difficulties of France by the assertion at the present moment of dynastic or personal pretensions, and "so far as the efforts of General Boyer have been directed to this point"—the dismemberment of France—"they have," it is announced, "completely failed." The authoritative statement made on behalf of the Empress, adds this remark:—"There is, then, no particle of truth in the stories told about the interview at Chislehurst, and it can scarcely be necessary to add that the approaching journey of the Empress to King William's head-quarters belong, like all the rest, to that domain of invention in which the subtle genius of Prussia, coming to the aid of her present difficulties, has contrived during the last few weeks to lead us astray." If, at any time, there has been any *rapprochement* between the King of Prussia and his prisoner at Wilhelmshohe, it has come to an end; and judging from the above extract, it is not likely to be revived. Whether peace negotiations succeed or fail, the ex-Emperor is not likely to be restored to the French throne by German arms.

Though Bazaine's envoy has returned from Versailles to Metz—his mission having apparently failed—the Marshal has not resumed his sorties. The proposition made by General Boyer was, it is said, that the besieged army should capitulate, while the regular garrison should still be allowed to hold the place. This arrangement was declined. We are told from Chislehurst that Marshal Bazaine "thinks himself entitled to exercise not a little influence on the question whether peace shall be made or hostilities continue. He would gladly make himself indispensable; would gladly be the dictator with whom the enemy should have to treat, taking the lead both of the Government which sits at Tours, and of that which is shut up in Paris." Further, we learn from Berlin, not only that the negotiations continue, but that they are prosecuted "independently of, and in opposition to, the proceedings of the Republican Government." The Marshal's position is evidently desperate, and he is trying to play a high stake. But if it be true, that deserters of all arms, half-starved, are swarming into the Prussian lines, and that those they left behind are mutinous in their behaviour, and subsisting upon horseflesh, the surrender of Metz cannot be far distant. The capitulation of this great fortress at the present time would undoubtedly give a reality to the negotiations for peace which they have hitherto lacked. Neither M. Thiers nor M. Guizot could resist the palpable significance of such an event.

Paris is still blockaded, and continues to exhaust its stores of food. For the moment the question whether its formidable defences can resist the German batteries—which are not even yet completed—is subordinate to the consideration how long the French capital has provisions enough to hold out. On the former point Dr. Russell gives the opinion that Paris is not to be battered or reduced by violent siege processes very readily. With respect to the latter and more serious matter, "A Besieged Resident," after "painful study," expresses his belief in the *Daily News* that, so far as mere quantity is concerned, there is enough animal and vegetable food fit for the sustenance of all but the exceptionally old, infantile, and infirm population of Paris, in tolerably healthy condition till the 10th of November—till the 1st of December without bitter hardship—till mid-December if that great population would consent to undergo what the lesser populations of smaller towns have been forced to submit to in times of siege. If the credulous Parisians are still hoping to be saved by relieving armies from without, General Trochu, in the remarkable and moderate letter he has addressed to the mayor of the French capital, does not express any belief in such illusions. Paris must, he declares, trust to herself—must confide in her defenders and not in her own rash and impatient impulses. A picked body of his numerous troops are being trained to meet the enemy, supported by an adequate field artillery. A week after this letter was issued General Trochu made his first great sortie with 25,000 men and forty guns from Mont Valérien, upon the German position near Versailles. It was to be expected that the French would be driven back, but the conflict was obstinate, and the assailants did not retire under shelter of the guns of the fort till nightfall, although the Crown Prince was reinforced by a portion of the troops under the Prince of Saxony. There can be no doubt that such sorties, frequently repeated, will be very harassing to the investing armies, as the siege progresses. And sometimes, we may reasonably suppose, they will be successful.

The war news from the departments is not of serious consequence, with the exception of the surrender of the fortress of Schelestadt. This capitulation places further prisoners and 120 guns in the hands of the Germans, but a more important result is the removal of a serious obstacle to the thorough conquest of Alsace, and the clearing the way for the advance of General Werder, who has to face the French Army of the East, under General Cambriels, and the irregular forces under Garibaldi in the Vosges. The Prussians have taken Chateaudun by storm, and occupied, without resistance, the prosperous city of Chartres, a great corn mart. The Bavarian General von der Tann holds and fleeces Orleans, while his cavalry sweep the country around—his advance towards Tours and Bourges being checked by the Army of the Loire, which is being reorganised, is receiving large reinforcements, and will, it is sanguinely expected, constitute a better disciplined army than has been seen since the investment of Metz. In the north, General Bourbaki, who is not strong enough to take the offensive, is preparing to defend Amiens, and to bar a Prussian advance upon Rouen. His presence in Normandy, and perhaps the heavy and continuous rains which have

fallen, have already sufficed to oblige the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg to evacuate St. Quentin, after exacting a heavy ransom, and retire upon Laon. The severe weather fights against the Germans in their field operations.

BRITISH EFFORTS FOR AN ARMISTICE.

Her Majesty's Government have left, for a season at least, and with a view to a definite object, the line of "masterly inactivity" they have held since the beginning of the war. A Cabinet Council held on Friday last, authorised Lord Granville to communicate by telegraph with the British Ambassadors at Tours and Berlin, and at St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Florence, the decision of Her Majesty's Ministers to propose an armistice between the belligerents, so as to allow of the convocation by France of a Constitutional Assembly, and an invitation to the neutral Powers to co-operate with them in support of the proposal. The replies received are favourable in their tenour.

We hope we do not misinterpret the character or the purport of this intervention. It can hardly be intended to be carried out peremptorily, or, in the last resort, by force. It aims, we should imagine, at directly bringing to bear on the belligerents the whole moral authority which England, Russia, Austria, and Italy can wield in concert. It may be inferred, we apprehend, that England would not have proposed the convocation of a Constituent Assembly in France, if she had contemplated the framing and imposing of terms of peace by what the *New Free Press* of Vienna calls "decisive mediation." The present intervention of the British Government we take to have for its object the restoration of France to a position in which it will be possible for her to assume national responsibility, and, in the exercise of that responsibility, resolve upon her future course, whether for peace or the continuance of war. At present, she is incapacitated from speaking her own mind. Her foe has laid her prostrate, and with his knee on her breast and his hand about her throat, requires a cession of territory, as security against unprovoked aggression and invasion in future. What England urges is that France must be able to discharge the functions of a nation once more before she can determine whether to acquiesce in the demand made upon her, or, if not, what compromise she is prepared to accept. There is no one now to speak authoritatively in her name. The pressure upon her has been so sudden and so stringent that she has lost the power of making her voice heard in her own affairs. Others have spoken for her, and with the best and purest intentions—but it is not by any means sure that they have spoken for her as she would have done for herself. "Let her reconstitute herself," says Lord Granville, "we ask an armistice that she may be able to do so. And when she is herself, and can answer for herself, she will tell Europe whether, in view of all the circumstances, she prefers risking further disaster, or accepting some such terms as she would, in a like case, have imposed upon others."

We cannot disguise from ourselves the great difficulty of the well-meant enterprise on which our Government have embarked. A cessation of hostilities for even a few days would be hailed by Europe as a relief. But it will need all Earl Granville's tact to arrange the conditions of it so as to make it fair to both belligerents. Count Bismark may be very willing to allow the disadvantages which mere lapse of time will inflict upon the German armies to be balanced by the still greater disadvantages it would inflict upon the French. But would M. Jules Favre or M. Gambetta be likely to look at the proposal in the same light? Suppose it were agreed that both armies should be fed during the armistice upon the resources they have in hand, there still remains the crucial question whether Alsace and Lorraine are to be represented in the Constituent Assembly as French departments, or omitted as German conquests. It is clearly impossible to set such questions aside—and in view of their insolubility, one can hardly forbear thinking that negotiations for peace might have been initiated with better promise than for an armistice for the purpose of electing a Constituent Assembly.

The great, and, for the present, the insuperable, obstacle to peace, is the resolution of the Germans to exact from France a territorial cession. We cannot on that account charge them with the exclusive responsibility of protracting the war, because the refusal of France to abide by the penal consequences of her own aggressive acts must be held equally answerable for the ruinous results that are threatened by it. Germany may plead that she insists upon nothing but what the laws of war put within her right; France may plead that she is ready to make any sacrifice other than that of national honour. Bystanders are unable to distribute with nice discrimination to each of the belligerents the measure of blame which each of them may incur. But all can see that the crime against humanity—to say nothing of the offence done to Europe—by the obstinacy of the combatants is enormous. Even if they are not going beyond their rights in respect of one another, they are in respect of their neighbours. The waste of life and property, the disorganisation of industry, the demoralisation of social forces, which have already come out of the arbitrary prolongation of hostilities, are evils which neutral nations will be compelled to share. The misery which springs from the infatuation of France and Germany overflows their neighbours' borders. We are trying, but are trying almost to no purpose, to repair some of the damage which these antagonists are recklessly dealing out to each other—but our charitable efforts, great and beneficent as they are, cannot overtake—nay, cannot come within sight of—a tenth part of the mischief done. Every day has its tales of disaster such as, taken singly, would thrill Europe with horror. The cynicism of the thing is becoming unbearable.

The time is close at hand—if it has not already arrived—when the origin of the war, together with the moral sympathies it evoked, will have been erased from men's memories and hearts by the unrighteous, and, we may add, the cold-blooded, persistence with which it is being carried on. Napoleon III. unnecessarily begun what Bismark as unnecessarily continues. Security for the Germans! Well, they have earned it, and have a good title to demand it. But they have done quite enough to raise the suspicion of Europe that, under cover of a demand for security, they are giving themselves up to the lust of territorial aggrandisement, and are reverting to the exploded and tyrannical principles of past ages. The King of Prussia, or the Emperor of Germany, as the case may be, should, in common prudence, beware of provoking attention to the somewhat greedy instincts of the House of Hohenzollern. Not even his Divine right, nor the eager applause of the privileged caste by which he is flattered, will save his throne from the inevitable recoil of the strain he is needlessly putting on the energies and resources of his own people, and upon the feelings of neighbouring peoples, by the inexorable pertinacity with which he rolls his enemy in the dust. A little more than a month ago men rejoiced that victory had alighted upon his crest. Now they are beginning to question whether military glory has not wrought in him its usual venomous effect.

England, supported probably by other neutral Powers, is about to speak to both belligerents with an immediate view to an armistice, and an ultimate view to peace. It would be unworthy of her dignity to assume the mien of a scold or a bully. But Europe will certainly expect her to avail herself of the occasion solemnly and boldly to remonstrate with both Powers against the offence and the scandal of pushing their quarrel to its utmost extremes. The remonstrance will be grateful to neither; it may be useful to both. It has been said that if England had firmly protested against a declaration of war by the French Emperor, he would not have braved that protest. Let it not be said hereafter that if England had in due terms, and in a becoming spirit, uplifted her voice against any further protraction of this murderous duel, she would have been heeded—but that she failed to vindicate the claims of humanity.

ENGLISH POLICY IN CHINA.

News from the skirts of the Chinese Empire is rather disquieting just now. We will not go so far as to say that the European residents in China are influenced by panic, for we do not think that their apprehensions are quite on a par with the tenour of their talk. Of course, every one must be aware of the danger to which Europeans would be exposed in the Chinese Empire if the populace should be seized with an epidemical frenzy, and should rise up to drive them into the sea. But the peril is mostly a theoretical one, and, with one exception we think, has never assumed a formidable practical shape. After carefully looking at the evidence on both sides of the question, it is a matter of doubt, we think, whether the Chinese as a people really and spontaneously entertain that rooted dislike to foreigners which appears upon the surface. There is no question, indeed, that the whole, or nearly the whole, of the *personnel* of the Chinese Government, and of the system which they have to administer, is antagonistic to the growth of European influence on the Continent. We have had three wars with China for the sake of establishing a sort of mercantile footing in the Empire, and each of them, by a curious coincidence, was preceded by a demand for fresh privileges accompanied by a very general profession of fresh fears; so that we have come to look upon the latter as significant of a determination to enforce the former. This, perhaps, is the natural law of development in regard to the claims of Commerce, amid the unfavourable circumstances with which they have to contend under such rule as is feebly maintained in the Chinese Empire.

The massacre at Tientsin threatens to bring us back to a policy of aggression which we had hoped the Earl of Clarendon had effectually stayed. There can be no doubt whatever that the massacre of the French missionaries and the Sisters of Mercy in that city, was the result of systematic misrepresentation made by mandarins and literates to the bravos and rowdies with which the place abounds. There can be even less doubt, if it were possible, that the offence is looked upon with but lukewarm disfavour by the authorities at Pekin. Still, the fact cannot be denied that, under strong pressure from the representatives of European Powers, a considerable show of justice has been conceded. Two of the Tientsin mandarins have been transported for life, and fifteen men beheaded, for their participation in the crime perpetrated in that city. An investigation into the causes of the outrage was ordered by Imperial decree, and the Viceroy of the province, Tseng-Kwo-Fan, has delivered in a report, fully acquitting the late missionaries and Sisters of Mercy from the charges anonymously circulated against them, and expressing a wish that the Emperor should promulgate an edict in all the provinces of the Empire openly declaring that the misdeeds imputed to them are nothing but calumnies. It may be that this is an inadequate reparation of the atrocities committed, but it distinctly shows a desire, at least, on the part of the Government at Pekin, so far to suppress its own leanings and prejudices as to prevent an open rupture with European Powers. We are sorry to learn that the feeling of Western residents in China still points to what they regard as a necessity for warlike measures. It has been suggested that the representatives of France and England should appeal from Tseng-Kwo-Fan to the Imperial Government, for the execution of Chen-Kwo-Jin, one of his military subordinates, on the scene of his crime—which the Governor-General of the province, the highest local authority, has decidedly refused—and in case the appeal be made in vain, to occupy the Taku forts for five years, oblige the city of Tientsin to pay the expense of the occupation, and place our Legations in telegraphic communication with Taku. Then, if any armed opposition be offered to our troops, the grain fleet which proceeds to Tientsin every year may be arrested, or possession taken of the Shanghai Arsenal, or of the foreign-built Chinese fleet.

It will be said, perhaps, that such a measure as this might be effectual, whilst it would fall short immeasurably of a war with China. True, but is it absolutely necessary for the protection of the lives of foreign residents? Or is it presumable that it will not act as a further provocation, and precipitate the very conclusion which it seeks to avoid? The truth is, that our relations to the Chinese Empire have never yet been established upon a basis of international right, and the policy we have pursued has been a policy of officious meddling with its internal affairs. Earl Granville, we hope, notwithstanding the overwhelming responsibility imposed upon him by the Franco-Prussian war, will find time to bestow some attention upon the unsettled state of affairs in China; and, while doing all that is necessary to protect life, will energetically repress the somewhat overbearing tendencies of European merchants and residents in China towards measures which, however immediately promising, will be almost certain to involve us in ultimate hostilities.

DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION UNDER THE NEW ACT.

We have already discussed the Elementary Education Act in relation to the metropolis, and have generally explained its provisions as affecting the country at large. There are, however, some features of this legislative measure which need to be more prominently considered in connection with current events.

It will be remembered that the Bill originally proposed to grant "a year of grace" to the supporters of the Denominational system, to enable them to make good deficiencies in the several

school districts. This period was subsequently reduced to six months. It is consequently provided by the Act that all applications to the Committee of Council on Education for building grants for new schools must be made on or before the 31st of December, 1870. After that period the Education Board will absolutely cease to make such grants, and any subsequent lack of accommodation must be supplied by local School Boards. Until the beginning of next year, therefore, the adherents of the system of education at present in operation will be masters of the field—that is, they will be at liberty to make good any deficiency of accommodation in any school district.

As there appears to be a good deal of ignorance on the subject, it may be useful to point out how this provision of the Elementary Education Act is to be brought into operation, and is likely to work. By the 1st of January next the Education Department will be in possession of particulars of the school accommodation for every borough and parish in England and Wales. The requisite forms for this purpose were sent out last August. The statistics are to be obtained by town councils, and by overseers of the poor in parishes not included in municipal boundaries. In case of the failure of the local authorities to make such returns, the Educational Board is empowered to obtain them, and also to appoint inspectors to test their accuracy and completeness. These statistics will then be considered by the Educational Department. When they have arrived at their decision as to the public school accommodation of the district, they are to publish the particulars, and the estimate of further supply, if any, required. Their decision may be challenged by any ten ratepayers, or the managers of any school, at whose instance, within one month, a public inquiry may be ordered. Then the Education Department is to publish a final notice, directing that the school deficiency shall be supplied. If nothing is done for that object within six months, they are to cause a School Board for the district to be formed. This process it is to be borne in mind, may be from time to time repeated—the Central Department being empowered to call for periodical returns, but not oftener than once a year.*

It is pretty certain that, at first starting, the educational deficiencies of the country, excepting in the case of large towns, will be very largely made up. Up to the end of this year, as we have said, it is possible to obtain from the Privy Council, out of the Parliamentary grant, one-half the cost for the erection or enlargement of elementary schools; after which the building grant finally ceases. Throughout the rural districts steps are being taken to secure this advantage by the managers of denominational schools. We hear also of a great fund being raised by the National Society, of a Roman Catholic fund of 40,000*l.*, of meetings to obtain subscriptions for this purpose in connection with diocesan boards, and of Episcopal and Archiepiscopal appeals. Probably there are few parishes of moderate dimensions in which the parson and the squire, by means of local subscriptions and grants from the funds referred to, may not secure additional school accommodation sufficient to ward off for a time School Boards, local rates, and all the machinery of Mr. Forster's Act. But the mere raising of a moiety of the cost of a new building does not necessarily secure the coveted Parliamentary grant. The managers must be able to fulfil the conditions of the Revised Code of 1870, which require, among other things, "that the religious denomination of the new school is suitable to the families relied upon for supplying scholars," and "that the school is likely to be maintained in efficiency." It will thus be seen that there is a wide discretion in the hands of the Committee of Council, or rather of Mr. Forster, its working chief.

After the 1st of January there will be no more building grants; after the 31st of March *every* school which receives aid from the Education Department must be "a public elementary school," within the meaning of the Act. That is to say, the law enjoins that the managers of all schools who claim a share in the Parliamentary grant shall no longer require the attendance of the scholars at any Sunday-school or place of worship, or at any religious observance in the school; that religious instruction shall take place at the beginning, or end, or both, of the school hours; and that "no child withdrawn by his parent from any religious observance or instruction is to forfeit any of the other benefits of the school." Although the so-called national schools in the rural districts will remain under the control of Church managers, their powers will be somewhat restricted. The amount of payments by the Education Department will depend upon the results of secular education alone—the Government inspectors being forbidden to engage officially in any religious examinations. Consequently, those schools which devote the *most* attention to "religious observance or instruction" will, as a rule, secure the *least* share of the public money. Such being the case, it is easy to see that the respective interests of teachers and managers will diverge. Sectarian education, therefore, will not, after the date mentioned, answer in a pecuniary sense; and there is good ground for believing that strictly Church schools will labour under considerable disadvantages, and be less zealously supported by voluntary aid, when those who contribute find that their powers are considerably curtailed by the provisions of the Act.

We may reasonably presume that after the withdrawal of the building grant, and the conditions which come into force on the 1st of April next, there will be a slow but steady decline in the support of denominational schools. This result will be materially hastened by the publication of the promised statistics. It can hardly be doubted that the general results of the school district returns will be to show that the accommodation is largely in excess of the present demand—on the average one-fourth, if not one-third. The erection of a large number of new schools under the circumstances referred to will aggravate this anomaly. By the new Act the power of permissive compulsion is vested in School Boards. But no such coercion can be applied in respect to the denominational schools, which will for some time comprise an overwhelming majority of "public elementary schools." If, therefore, Mr. Forster's Act is to answer its object of educating the entire population, the question of compulsion will soon be one of paramount urgency. But should the acceptance of that principle as a means of fulfilling the objects of the Act become imperative, the whole educational problem will assume a new aspect, for it will be found that compulsion can only be made fairly to apply to schools sustained by local rates.

It remains, however, to be seen what will be the precise effect of the boon gratuitously offered to Denominational schools by the Prime Minister when the Education Bill went into Committee in June last. Mr. Gladstone was then engaged in adjusting his compromises with a view to please both sides, in order to carry Mr. Forster's Bill. As a set off to his concessions to the supporters of secular education, he proposed to offer the managers of denominational schools an increase of the maintenance grant. At present the Privy Council gives one-third towards the expenses of all schools aided by them; the remaining two-thirds being supplied by voluntary contributions and school pence. After March next the Privy Council grant is to be a maxim of *one-half* instead of *one-third;* the avowed object of the increase being to enable the denominational to compete with the rate-aided schools. Our belief is that this vicious concession on the part of the Government will not prevent, though it may retard, the absorption of sectarian into rate-supported schools. The matter is not, however, settled. Mr. Gladstone's proposal will be embodied in the Revised Code of 1871, which has to be submitted to Parliament for approval. It will be seen that the Central Nonconformist Committee, through the Rev. R. W. Dale, intend to offer the most strenuous opposition to this proposal, which is simply a sop offered to Church ascendancy and vested interests. We trust they may be able next Session to rally the whole Liberal party to their side in resisting this uncalled-for, or at least unwise, attempt to bolster up an unsuccessful scheme of public elementary education.

* These and the other provisions of the measure are given in fuller detail in the compendiums of the Elementary Education Act prepared respectively by Mr Hugh Owen, Jun., and Mr. Thomas Preston, to which we have already called attention. Each of these little volumes—the first published by Knight and Co., the second by Amer, Lincoln's-inn-gate—is clear, correct, compact, and exhaustive, and each is equally well adapted as a guide-book to all who are interested in, or who may be called upon to carry out, the provisions of Mr. Forster's Act.

PRESERVATION OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

The practical utility of the Metropolitan Board of Works has just received an unexpected but characteristic illustration. Through the instrumentality of that energetic body the long-continued dispute between the Wilson family and the inhabitants of London respecting the right to Hampstead Heath, has become all but finally settled, and it is now more than probable that in a few months this favourite recreation ground will be completely secured to the use of the public. This result is as gratifying as it was unexpected. For more than a quarter of a century the late Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson and the Londoners were angrily engaged in contending for the mastery, the former being strongly desirous of enclosing the heath and converting its surface into building sites, and the latter being as rigidly opposed to any steps whereby they might become deprived of any portion of the broad open space which had become so prized by them. Sir Thomas was determined to effect his purpose; scarcely a Session passed by without the introduction of a Bill having for its object the granting of powers of enclosure to him, but both the House of Lords and the House of Commons declined to admit his arguments and persistently refused the concessions persistently asked by the bellicose Lord of the Manor. At one time it seemed as if he possessed a reasonable prospect of success. It was wearisome labour, thus resisting the continually threatened encroachment on the freedom of the heath, to the vestries and other metropolitan representative bodies, and on several occasions there were perceptible indications of their patience becoming exhausted. Indeed, but for the firm resistance of the copyholders and leaseholders having rights in the heath, it is more than doubtful whether Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson would not have secured his objects with comparative ease. As it was, he actually contrived, not only to enclose but also to build on several isolated portions of this beautiful metropolitan suburb, despite the angry growl of the indignant but powerless Londoners. It really seemed as if the heath was destined to be slowly but surely devoured piecemeal.

When the Metropolitan Local Management Act summoned the Metropolitan Board of Works into existence, the opposition to the enclosure of Hampstead Heath assumed a more systematic and vigorous character. There was no cajoling or bullying possible with the new guardians of metropolitan rights and interests. Ever watchful, they were not to be caught off their guard. No matter under what name or in what form Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson introduced his obnoxious Bills into Parliament, they were always successfully opposed by the whole power of the Board of Works, and at last the would-be spoiler had to acknowledge his defeat, and to consent to enter into negotiations for the sale of his rights over the heath. How those negotiations abruptly came to a close, is a story yet fresh in the remembrance of the public. Sir T. M. Wilson took offence at a real or imaginary breach of etiquette on the part of the late Sir John Thwaites, who, in a note, requested Sir Thomas to call upon him. Had there not existed a desire on the part of the Lord of the Manor to break from the arrangements which were being discussed, this characteristic episode could not possibly have occurred; the result, however, was a termination of the truce and the resumption of hostilities. True Sir Thomas had his terms of peace, but he purposely placed the price so high as to render them unacceptable. He required something like 10,000*l.* per acre or a sum of two millions sterling for the whole heath. Such an idea was preposterous, and could not be seriously entertained, even for an instant. Consequently, the war went on without intermission, and it looked as if the unwearying perseverance of the heath-coveting baronet was likely at last to be attended with success. He was actually dunning the Houses of Parliament into granting him his wishes. Suddenly, in the very midst of the struggle, he died; and with his death the conflict entered on a new phase—one apparently adverse to the interests of the public, the new Lord of the Manor being less fettered in his course of action than was his predecessor.

Fortunately, Sir John Maryon Wilson was a more reasonable and cool-headed man than his brother, and although at first he exhibited some disposition to carry on the war in the same determined and unflinching manner as had the late Sir Thomas, he was not long in perceiving the desirability of ending the protracted and costly litigation in which his family and the inhabitants of the public had been engaged. Not long before the death of the late Sir John Thwaites, the negotiations for securing the free use of Hampstead Heath to the public were reopened, the result being a careful survey of the whole unenclosed space, preparatory to the purchase, for a moderate sum, of the manorial rights of the Wilson family. More than once, however, a hitch in the arrangements threatened to upset the whole negotiations, but fortunately all concerned kept their temper, and continued the discussion in a calm and business-like spirit. Sir John wanted to retain one of the most beautiful sites on the summit of the heath: this being objected to, he selected another; ultimately he gave up both. At last he confined himself to the retention of certain spaces as roads or avenues to his building land near the heath. It being found, upon investigation, that the concession of these would in nowise affect the public enjoyment

of the heath, the representatives of the Board of Works decided upon not opposing Sir John's wishes in this respect. Then came the question of the purchase-money. This was felt to be the crucial point of the whole negotiations. How much would Sir John require? Public opinion fixed the sum at from 100,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* Judge, then, of the surprise of the Londoners when they learned that the amount agreed upon was 45,000*l*, with an additional sum of 2,000*l.* to cover costs of conveyance and other legal expenses. Thus for the extremely moderate sum of 47,000*l.*, no less than 240 of the most easily accessible and beautiful suburban scenery has been secured for the perpetual use of the residents of the over-crowded metropolis. As might have been expected, the Metropolitan Board of Works are everywhere being congratulated on the successful results of their diplomacy, but we think that the moderation and good sense displayed by Sir John Wilson should not be overlooked. To him, no less than to the Board of Works, we owe this happy termination of a protracted and bitter struggle.

The encouraging issue of the movement for the preservation of Hampstead Heath cannot but impart fresh strength and hope to the defenders of open spaces elsewhere. It is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our commons and open spaces. Now that it is seen how earnest and successful are the efforts of the new champions of fresh air and healthful recreations, it will be strange if their example be not followed elsewhere. What London has done, other cities and towns can do. But, so far as the Londoners are concerned, the rescue of Hampstead Heath from the grip of building speculators must inevitably be followed by other equally important results. It must affect more or less the future of Epping Forest. It will be impossible for any Ministry to recede from the promise made by Mr. Gladstone, that the Government would introduce a Bill to secure the remaining portion of this popular holiday resort from further enclosure. They could not, for very shame, refuse to follow in the wake of the Board of Works, especially when that now popular body has expressed its willingness to assist in the work of preservation. The safety of Epping Forest will prove the natural corollary of that of Hampstead Heath. But to render both enjoyable their present condition of comparative wildness must not be altered. Their charm consists in their unartificial, picturesque character; destroy this, and half their value is gone. Fortunately, it is not contemplated to transform Hampstead Heath into a park. Regulations will be adopted with the view of preserving the trees and shrubs, but the heath is to remain open, as of old, to the free use of all who seek its bracing and invigorating atmosphere. A judicious resolve this, and one which speaks well for the good sense of those who made it.

THE MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES AND THE DOUBLE LICENCES (FOR DANCING AND DRINKING).

The committee of the Howard Association (for the promotion of the best methods of the treatment and prevention of crime), have forwarded the following address to the Chairman of the Middlesex Magistrates:—

To Henry M. Kemstead, Esq., Chairman of the Middlesex Magistrates.

Sir,—Permit us, on behalf of the Howard Association, to tender you our most hearty thanks for the very valuable service to the community rendered last week by yourself and your brother magistrates, and aided especially by the venerable Mr. Henry Pownall (your able Chairman for so many years), in withdrawing the dancing licences from some of those places where the youth of London are so grievously led astray.

Would that all magistrates, everywhere, might, under a deep sense of Christian responsibility, follow your praiseworthy example.

The subject of the necessary connection of prostitution and moral ruin, with the *double* licensing system, for dancing and drinking, is one to which our Association has repeatedly urged public attention, and it is very cheering to observe that at length the Middlesex Justices are leading the way in this true work of justice and protection of the rights (and righteousness) of the community—a work against which there can be no real claim of vested "rights," in the sight, at any rate, of God and of all good men.

We are, Sir, yours most respectfully,
JOSEPH COOPER,
STAFFORD ALLEN,
EDMUND STURGE,
WILLIAM TALLACK.

London October, 1870.

COLCHESTER ELECTION.—Last night Mr. Baxter Langley, who has come forward unsolicited to ask the suffrages of the Colchester constituency, held a meeting at the theatre. A large audience collected, but not to accord a welcome; and, after waiting in vain for a hearing for a quarter of an hour, Mr. Langley withdrew, accompanied by his friends.

THE WAR.

THE PROPOSAL OF AN ARMISTICE.

Immediately after the Cabinet Council on Thursday, Lord Granville telegraphed to our representatives at Tours, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Florence, to propose an armistice which should allow of the convocation of a Constituent Assembly in France. One of Mr. Reuter's telegrams, dated Tours, October 23, says that great hopes are entertained that by the intervention of England an armistice may be obtained, and it is understood that the Tours Government is favourably disposed to a pacific arrangement. The *Indépendance Belge* states that the British Government has received replies of a nature to lead to the belief that the proposal for a suspension of hostilities will very shortly be accepted. The *Constitutionnel* also announces that England is acting in unison with Austria and Italy, and that Russia is disposed to act in the same sense, but in an isolated manner.

A telegram from Vienna intimates that the Austro-Hungarian Government at once responded to the proposal of England, and in a friendly manner advocated an armistice both in Berlin and Tours. The *New Free Press* of Vienna has a leading article upon the continuance of the war, which it declares to have become intolerable to Europe. It therefore demands decisive mediation on the part of neutral Powers, to be preceded by an agreement upon a clear and just programme. It adds:—"The present moment is well fitted for bringing about a compromise. England should not only take the initiative, but should also assume the conduct of the negotiations, and become the counsel in a cause which is advocated with singular unanimity and firmness by the public opinion of the whole civilised world."

The *New Prussian (Cross) Gazette* of Saturday, speaking of a rumour that M. Thiers will pay a visit to Versailles, says it can promise him beforehand that his mission will be a failure.

According to a telegram from the *Daily News* correspondent at Berlin, it is believed there that Germany will insist on the armistice embracing peace preliminaries, and on its recognising in principle the strategical boundary stipulation.

The *Times* prints the following telegram from Tours, dated Sunday:—"M. Thiers so far succeeded in his object that four Powers showed a disposition to move, but especially England and Russia, not conjointly, but each in its own way. The result has been the proposal of an armistice, allowing the election of a Constituent Assembly competent to ratify peace on behalf of the nation. The Tours Government agrees to this, subject to consultation with the Government at Paris. A safe-conduct has been asked for to enable an envoy from Tours to enter Paris. When obtained, M. Thiers will go to Paris, and after obtaining the acquiescence of the Government will probably proceed to Versailles to treat as to the conditions of an armistice. It is presumed that the principal conditions of peace are already agreed to. Prussia is to renounce an increase of territory, and receive Luxembourg."

The *Siècle* asserts that, according to General Burnside's communication to M. Favre, Prussia would consent to mediatise Alsace and Lorraine, which for ten years would be exempt from the conscription. It would hope during this period to succeed in governing the provinces. Count Bismark also demands an indemnity of 80,000,000*l.*

On Monday night the special correspondent of the *Times* at Berlin telegraphed as follows:—"The latest suggestions concerning an armistice come to nothing in consequence of Prussia demanding that France should consent, in principle, to a cession of territory."

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

On Friday the French made a sortie, which is thus described in a letter from King William to Queen Augusta:—

I am just back from an engagement at Malmaison. Twelve battalions, with forty guns, made a sortie from Mont Valérien. They were repulsed after three hours' fighting. We watched the fight from the Marly Viaduct. The whole Versailles garrison was called to arms.

The special correspondent of the *Times* at Versailles sends the following telegram on the subject:—"Versailles, Oct. 22.—Yesterday afternoon the French, covered by the guns of the fortress of Mont Valérien, made an attack on the German position in the bend of the Seine from Bon Giral, Ruel, and La Celle to St. Cloud, in three columns and with numerous field guns. In all there was a force of more than 25,000 men, of whom eighteen battalions were engaged. The fight lasted till dark, but the French retreated to the shelter of the guns under Mont Valérien, leaving half a battery, most brilliantly carried, in the hands of the Germans. The Landwehr of the Guard behaved magnificently; Schmitz's Division especially distinguished themselves. In action the Prussians scarcely used their artillery. The German loss was one-half that of the French."

The *Times* correspondent at Versailles, writing on the 16th, says it is not likely that the bombardment, if there is to be one, can begin before the first week in November. From what he hears of the range of the most powerful ordnance of the Germans at high elevations, it would appear that many parts of Paris can be brought under fire and exposed to ruin and conflagrations which may spread over the whole quarters of the city. The special correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* at the same place says:—"One thing I may say, and that is that no shell will be thrown into Paris until one or more of the exterior forts has fallen. When this has happened, the city itself will a second time (it will first be summoned before a siege gun is fired against the forts) be called on to surrender. If the summons is rejected, Paris will be bombarded vigorously."

General Trochu has addressed to the Mayors of Paris a letter, dated 14th of October, which is characterised by great common sense and considerable eloquence. He states that it was looked upon at first as doubtful whether the fortifications of Paris, constructed under obsolete conditions of war, would be able to resist an attack, and whether the population would submit to the sacrifices required of them. He adds that the *enceinte* has now been rendered unassailable, and the population have shown themselves deserving of every confidence. He then refers to the desire on the part of the public that large masses should be led out to attack the Prussians. This desire, while characterising it as laudable, he shows is founded on an ignorance of war, and sets forth that, without an adequate field artillery and with a large portion of the troops armed only with muzzle-loading rifles, to attempt a sortie would be madness. He informs the mayors that he is labouring to remedy the deficiency of field artillery and breech-loading rifles, in view of a sortie. In preparation for sorties, he also decrees the formation of mobile battalions of National Guards, to be formed by taking a company of not more than 150 men from each battalion. These men are to be volunteers, and the preference is to be given to unmarried men of thirty-five years of age and upwards, who have either borne arms or are accustomed to military exercise. Four companies are to form a battalion; uniform is to be obligatory on all, and the officers and men are to receive the same pay and allowance as the line. Every soldier of these mobilised battalions is to be armed with Chassepots taken from the battalion of the National Guard to which he belongs. Camp utensils and knapsacks are to be served out to these volunteers, which looks as if General Trochu already looked forward to one day following up the retreating Prussians to the Rhine. They are to be subject to military laws and regulations. A most remarkable paragraph closes this document, the General says—"In the month of July last, the French army, in all the splendour of its strength, traversed Paris with cries of '*A Berlin! à Berlin!*' I was far from partaking of this confidence, and alone, perhaps, among all the generals, I ventured to declare to the Minister of War that I saw in this clamorous entry on the campaign, as well as in the means put into operation, the elements of a great disaster. . . . . To-day, in the fervour which has legitimately arisen in your hearts, I meet again with difficulties which offer the most striking analogy with those of the past. I declare here, that full of the firmest belief in the return of fortune which is due to the great work of resistance involved in the siege of Paris, I will not yield to the pressure of public impatience. Inspiring myself with those duties which are common to all, and with those responsibilities which no one partakes with me, I will follow to the end the plan I have traced out, without revealing it, and I demand from the population of Paris, in return for my efforts, the continuation of that confidence with which it has this day honoured me."

CORRESPONDENCE FROM PARIS.

THE AMAZONS OF THE SEINE.—The citoyennes of Paris are apparently weary of the monotony of a besieged existence. They are enlisting in a body called "Amazons of the Seine." Their costume will consist of a pair of black trousers, with an orange colour stripe, a blouse of woollen stuff, with a cap, and a black kepi with an orange band, together with a cartridge-box fastening to a shoulder-belt. Only women of unexceptionable character will be permitted to join this corps, all candidates having not only to be accompanied by a husband, father, or brother, but to bring with them a certificate from the Commissary of Police, attesting their character, position, &c. The officers will all be ladies, mostly wives and daughters of officers in the army, or at any rate possessing some knowledge of military affairs. A special patriotic and most spirit-stirring song has been composed for the corps, entitled, "The Marseillaise of the Amazons of the Seine." The duties of the Amazons are somewhat comprehensively defined. In addition to tending the wounded, they are expected to defend the ramparts and barricades jointly with the stationary National Guard, and "to render the combatants in whose ranks they would be distributed by companies all such domestic and fraternal services as are compatible with moral order and military discipline."

CANARDS IN PARIS.—A good deal of excitement is manifested at the report that the Orleans Princes are in France, and intend joining the Army of the Loire. An angry deputation waited on the Government yesterday to know the truth of this rumour; but the Government could neither contradict nor confirm it. "Let France perish," exclaim those good patriots, "rather than be saved by an army commanded by a Prince who would afterwards become King: the Republic or annihilation!" Another and a more improbable report was circulated with all possible gravity some days ago. Twenty thousand Englishmen had fought their way through the Prussian lines, and were encamped on the exterior Boulevards, burning with the desire to assist their former allies in repulsing the enemy. Detachments of Mobiles, the National Guards, and regular troops, hurried to the spot to welcome them as brothers-in-arms; and great was the disgust and disappointment to find no brothers-in-arms to welcome.—*Telegraph's Correspondent.*

THE FOOD PROBLEM IN PARIS.—The food problem here now (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* on the 10th inst.) is vital. The fulfilment or frustration of Bismark's hopes, based on our intestinal troubles, turns on the solution of this stomachic

problem. It is exceedingly complicated. Some of its first elements are wanting to calculators—wanting, at least, in definable accuracy. For instance, no human being can tell within 100,000 what is to-day the population of Paris. Estimates of sensible men vary from 1,700,000 to 2,000,000: a similar, though hardly such a wide, diversity rules respecting the quantity of edible matter now in stock within the fortifications, in the hands of Government, and of commercial dealers. Then there are the small stocks, laid in by provident private persons, the product still reaching our market of suburban gardens, and other little alimentary accessories, the sum total of which defies anything like nice calculation. A painful study of the subject leads me to suppose that, so far as mere quantity is concerned, there is enough animal and vegetable food fit for the sustenance of all but the exceptionally old, infantile, and infirm population of Paris, in tolerably healthy condition till the 10th of November—till the 1st of December without bitter hardship—till mid-December if this great population would consent to undergo what the lesser populations of smaller towns have been forced to submit to in times of siege. And here, not to cite old historical instances, I note Vicksburg, holding out from December to the following July, and from abundant hog and hominy down to the last lean mule. But the question of questions is, how to serve out the food equally and justly to rich and poor? All measures hitherto taken answer it very imperfectly. I can yet eat for five francs a day nearly as well as ever; but this cannot and ought not to last much longer; and the number of those who have not five nor two francs nor one franc to spend for their meals is great and steadily increasing. We have had for several weeks the maximum for meat and bread, and are approaching by a variety of experimental ways in the different arrondissements to *rationnement*, but the difficulties met with in all these ways are very great. Here too, however, if we regard rather what had been done by Government and the authorities in the different arrondissements, than what remains to be done, we must admire the progress that has been made towards a solution. The authority of the mayors is very great and very indefinite within their respective arrondissements, limited much less by statute than by their individual judgments. As a very energetic one of them said to me, "*La Loi? C'est ce qui est fait aujourd'hui.*" In the course of half an hour this morning he signed among others these four orders—1. For a poor woman to remove her poor household goods that the landlord was holding for rent. 2. For a ditto to recover her sewing-machine, &c., which some one was holding for a debt. 3. For an invalid man to obtain half a pound of meat at the butcher's. 4. To have a butcher up who had refused meat to two persons not of his regular *clientelle*. Each order went out with two armed National Guards to see to its enforcement.

Supplying Meat in Paris.—In my last letter I mentioned that the rationing of the city was in contemplation; it is now in operation, but does not work so well as was hoped. The end which the Government had in view in portioning out the meat was that no person, however rich, should be able to procure more than his poorer brother. That would be a most just and excellent arrangement, were it practicable; but I greatly fear it is not, and I will explain why. Let me first, however, tell you the rules of the new measure, as affecting buyer and seller. With respect to the seller, a butcher going to buy meat must furnish himself with an exact list of his customers, the number in family of each, and whether they are children or adults. To obtain this, for the last few days a notice has been stuck up at every butcher's, requesting intending customers to give in their names, addresses, and number in family. Having shown his list, the merchant receives the amount of meat considered requisite to supply his customers for three days, and is forbidden to sell it to any but those residing in his arrondissement. All the butchers in one district must buy meat at the same time; consequently, their shops are open for a few hours on the morning of every third day, and completely closed afterwards. Now, as to the buyers. The first thing to be done is to leave your name at the butcher's in your district whom you wish to patronise; and, having made your choice, you must abide by it, for no other tradesman is allowed to supply your wants but the one whose name you give in at the Mairie with your own. Having presented yourself at the Mairie, and stated all particulars, you receive tickets to obtain meat every third day for one month. The ration allowed each person is 100 grammes—rather less than a quarter of a pound—per day; so that, on presenting my ticket at my butcher's this morning, I received a little over half a pound of meat, which must last me three days; and to obtain even this small allowance you must form one of the crowd in the early morning, wait your turn, take almost whatever kind of meat is thrust upon you, and pocket your pride with your ration; for the butcher, formerly all smiles and civility, has allowed his temper to be so soured by his inability to impose on his customers—the price of meat being regulated by the Government—that he is scarcely recognisable, and seems to consider he is doing you a favour in serving you at all.—*Letter from Paris, October* 15.

Credulity of the Parisians.—"A Besieged Resident," writing from Paris to the *Daily News* on the 10th, says:—"For my part, I have given up placing the least faith in anything I hear or read. As for the newspapers, they give currency to the most incredible stories, and they affect, not only to relate every shot that has been fired, but the precise damage which it has done to the enemy, and the number of men which it has killed and wounded. They have already slain and taken prisoner a far greater number of Prussians than, on any fair calculation, there could have been in the besieging army at the commencement of the siege. Since the commencement of the war the Government, the journalists, the generals, and the gossips, have been engaged apparently in a contest to test the limits of human credulity. Under the Republic the game is still merrily kept up, and although the German armies are but a few miles off, we are daily treated to as many falsehoods respecting what goes on at the front as when they were at Sedan, or huddled together in those apocryphal quarries of Jancourt. 'I saw it in a newspaper,' or 'I was told it by an eye-witness,' is still considered conclusive evidence of the truth of no matter what fact. To-day, I nearly had a dispute with a stout party, who sat near me as I was breakfasting in a *café*, because I ventured, in the mildest and most hesitating manner, to question the fact that an army of 250,000 men was at Rouen, and would in the course of this week attack the Prussians at Versailles. 'It is here, sir,' he said, indignantly pointing to his newspaper; 'a peasant worthy of belief has brought the news to the editor; are we to believe no one?" There were a dozen persons breakfasting at the same time, and I was the only one who did not implicitly believe in the existence of this army. This diseased state of mind arises mainly, I presume, from excessive vanity. No Parisian is able to believe anything which displeases him, and he is unable not to believe anything which flatters his *amour propre*. He starts in life with a series of delusions, which all he has read and heard until now have confirmed. No journal dares to tell the truth, for if it did its circulation would fall to nothing. No Parisian, even if by an effort he could realise to himself the actual condition of his country, would dare to communicate his opinion to his neighbour, for he would be regarded as a traitor and a liar. The Bostonians believe that Boston is the 'hub of the universe,' and the Parisian is under the impression that his city is a species of sacred Ark, which it is a sacrilege to touch. To bombard London or Berlin would be an unfortunate necessity of war, but to fire a shot into Paris is desecration. For a French army to live at the expense of Germany is in the nature of things; for a German army to live at the expense of Frenchmen is a barbarity which the civilised world ought to resent. If the result of the present campaign is to convince Frenchmen that, as a nation, they are neither better nor worse than other nations, and to convince Parisians that Paris enjoys no special immunity from the hardships of war, and that if it sustains a siege it must accept the natural consequences, it will not have been waged in vain, but will materially conduce to the future peace of the world. As yet—I say it with regret, for I abominate war and Prussians, and there is much which I like in the French—the lesson has not been learnt. Day by day I am becoming more convinced that a lasting peace can only be signed in Paris, and that the Parisians must be brought to understand by hard experience that, if victory means an accession of military glory, defeat means humiliation, and that the one is just as possible as the other. If the siege be raised to-morrow, the occupation of Alsace and Lorraine by an enemy would be disbelieved within six months by this vain, frivolous populace; and even if the German army does ever defile along the Boulevards, I shall not be surprised if we are told, as soon as they have withdrawn, that they never were here."

Changed Aspect of Paris.—There is, indeed, a marvellous change to be seen in the aspect of Paris. Its magnificent libraries and museums are closed, the more valuable volumes and works of art stowed away underground, and the lower windows of the palaces in which they are lodged filled up with sandbags. The Grand Opera is turned into an observatory and a military store; the Théâtre Francais is an hospital; and so also are the Italian Opera-house and the Variétés; the Gaité is devoted to the manufacture of clothes; the Circus named after the Empress is busy with the preparation of cartridges; the Palaces—the Luxembourg, the Elysées, the Tuileries, the Palais Royal, the Palais de l'Industrie, the Palais de Justice—are all hospitals, with the red-cross flag flying over them side by side with the tricolour; the vast workshops of the railways are turned into foundries for cannon; artillery with horses and wagons bivouac in the Jardin des Plantes among the caged beasts; in the pleasure gardens, on the top of Montmartre, where the dwellers by the barrier went to dance, there are frowning batteries; in another famous ballroom at Montmartre, which took to itself the name of Elysium, M. Nadar is night and day fabricating his giant balloons; in the gardens of the Tuileries, where old men dozed over the papers, where young men made their assignations, where children played among the orange-trees with hoops and with balls, and bought the little cakes which are exclusively known as Pleasures—where the tame doves came to perch by your side upon the railings, and to peck the breadcrumbs from your hand—where the bands played under the tall limes in the cool of the day—these gardens are given up to the artillery, with all its appurtenances and with the litter of horses picketed under the trees. Of the crowds who used to frequent them, some, chiefly the nurses and the children, disport themselves on the grass plots in the Champs Elysées, close by the enclosure of open-air concerts; others have gone to the high ground of the Trocadero, where they indulge in needlework, and in the intervals of the stitches take out their opera-glasses to try and see the firing in the distance. All down the southern side of the Champs Elysées there are folds for cattle and sheep, bellowing and bleating over their fodder; under the trees on the side avenues the dragoons are encamped; their horses are tied to the saplings; here the horses are being groomed; there a horse is being shod; and there, again, on one of the green wooden seats, where, in the olden time, nurses found anchorage while their children disported around, a party of dragoons are arranging their little tins for breakfast. —*Letter in the Times.*

THE INVESTMENT OF METZ.

A special correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs from Luxembourg as follows:—"General Boyer, who was sent by Marshal Bazaine to the King of Prussia, has left Versailles. The proposition he took there was that all Bazaine's army should capitulate on the same terms as were agreed upon at Sedan, but that the troops forming the regular Metz garrison should continue to hold the place. This would have made at least half the investing army available for other purposes; but it would also have enabled the reduced garrison to subsist longer on their provisions. Moltke refused the proposition. According to another account Marshal Bazaine, when offering to surrender, demanded a position for himself, which, if accorded, would probably have enabled him to take a prominent part in restoring order in France, after the conclusion of peace."

The *Times's* special correspondent sends the following telegram from Saarbruck on Friday:—"There has been an unaccountable silence since the return of the envoy. There were great rejoicings in Metz on Wednesday. Salutes were fired, and the people were heard cheering. Flags were flying from all the positions, and bands playing. Deserters are swarming in from all branches, Artillery, Imperial Guards, and Infantry, all in wretched plight. They feign to be on foraging expeditions when taken. Their accounts vary. One man I saw to-day affirms that Bazaine is dead, and Canrobert in command, and that the Republic has been proclaimed. Provisions are said to have been finished since the 18th inst. Horse-flesh, however, is still plentiful. There are very few peasants in the villages around Metz. Those remaining speak well of the Prussians. The weather is very bad. Epidemics are still prevalent. The Prussians think a capitulation imminent."

THE OTHER FORTRESSES.

The bombardment of Mezières commenced on Saturday, the armistice having previously expired. Schlestadt, in Alsace, is being besieged in form, the first parallel having been opened against the southern fort on Saturday night, at a distance of from 500 to 700 paces from the walls. Thirty-two guns have been mounted by the besiegers, and are ready to open fire upon the place. Under these circumstances the capture of Schlestadt can be a question only of days. The town has a population of less than 10,000. It was fortified by Vauban, and is naturally strong, being surrounded by marshes. It was besieged by the Allies in 1815. At the capitulation of Soissons the Germans captured 128 guns, 70,000 grenades, 3,000 cwt. of gunpowder, and a military chest containing 92,000 francs.

A private letter from before Verdun states that the place has been invested since the 23rd ult., that a considerable sortie was repulsed on the 24th, and that the French guns taken at Sedan are making good practice in the hands of the besiegers.

It is eleven weeks since the battles of Woerth and Forbach were fought, and the Crown Prince telegraphed to his father that MacMahon was falling back on Bitsche. From that day Bitsche has stopped the way of the Germans most inconveniently. It commands the road from Forbach to Hagenau, between Neiderbronn and Sarreguemines, and impedes the communications of the German army. The fortress, which has been invested for a long time, is at length to be taken. The French consider it a very strong position, and even speak of it in their books as impregnable. It is excavated out of a red sandstone rock above the town. The fortified enceinte is composed of four bastions, with a demi-lune and a hornwork. The whole interior is vaulted and casemated. It will not accommodate a garrison of more than 1,000 men, but 8,000 have been sent against it, with guns from Strasbourg.

THE DEPARTMENTS.

The 22nd Prussian Division, on the 18th inst., attacked and defeated 4,000 Frenchmen near Chateaudun, and stormed the barricaded town. Many prisoners were taken, and the losses were small. The French say that the Francs-tireurs and the National Guards contested the ground inch by inch, but were decimated by the superior numbers and artillery of the enemy.

The prosperous city of Chartres, the capital of the Department of the Eure and Loire, remarkable for one of the largest corn-markets in France, was occupied by the Germans under General Wittich on Friday morning. There was no fighting. Wittich, who had taken Chateaudun, on another line of railroad, a few days before, appeared before the town with a large force, whereupon the Prefect and the Mayor made arrangements by which fighting was avoided. These functionaries had the prudence to make the military authorities parties to the agreement, which seems to have been a wise one. The telegram bridging this news comes from Pontgouin, fifteen miles below Chartres, on the road to Le Mans, and its authors expressed their belief that the German forces are going to Nantes. This, however, is a wild guess—Nantes is 183 miles from Chartres. According to the rule followed by the Prussians, the requisitions at Chartres should be light. At Orleans the balance of the 40,000*l.* demanded as a war contribution at the expense of the town, and of which 8,000*l.* remained unpaid pending an appeal to the King of Prussia, has been required, and in default of payment the principal authorities would have been imprisoned. The amount has been raised. Large quantities of woollen clothing have also been taken.

Affairs on the Loire appear to have undergone no critical change. Von der Tann holds Orleans with the main body of his army, which occupies a line of about thirty miles, from Jargeau to Beaugency. The report from Tours that the latter town had been evacuated could not have been true. The Germans are said to have destroyed the bridge at Clery, but as that town is three miles distant from the left bank of the Loire, and a bridge on the Ardoux would hardly have been worth mentioning, the bridge at Meung is probably intended. The German cavalry roam up and down the valley of the Loire, Francs-tireurs notwithstanding, making requisitions and carrying off cattle, which are sent to the army before Paris. General d'Aurelles, according to letters from Tours, is receiving large reinforcements, and will place in the field a better organised army than has been seen since the investment of Metz.

Great excitement prevails at Amiens, in the north of France, and for several days the inhabitants have held themselves prepared for an attack. The alarm seems to have been groundless. The Germans are in force at Beauvais, Soissons, and Laon, and visit the neighbourhood very much as they please; but as they have no military object to prosecute in that direction which requires them to operate in a definite line, or within a fixed term, it may be some time before they go to Amiens. Most of the announcements of their movements which are sent to Lille are founded on the reports of excited peasants. There is no doubt, however, that the Germans last week approached nearer to Amiens than they had previously done. Great preparations had been made to receive them at points outside the city, and it was expected that General Bourbaki would himself arrive to take the command of the mingled force of Line, Mobiles, and Sedentary National Guard. Railway communication with Amiens is suspended fifteen miles north of that city.

The Prussians returned last Friday to St. Quentin, from which they were repulsed on the 8th, and entered the town after an hour's cannonading. The telegrams from Lille state that they imposed on the town a requisition of 80,000*l.*, a sum twice as large as that demanded at Orleans. The difference is the penalty for a resistance which, in the eyes of the German commanders, was wanton and vexatious.

The *Movimento* publishes a letter from Dole, dated Oct. 18, announcing that General Garibaldi has formed the cadres of the Army of the Vosges. The three first brigades have already been constituted. The first is placed under the command of General Bossak, and is composed of one regiment of Mobile Guards, one battalion of Francs-tireurs, and many Englishmen and Spaniards, commanded by Senor Orense. The second, under the command of Colonel Maine, is composed of nearly all Frenchmen. And the third, commanded by Menotti Garibaldi, comprises one regiment of French Mobile Guards, two battalions of Italians, and one battalion of natives of Nice. Each battalion is provided with a company of Engineers.

A decree has been issued by the Government at Tours, dated the 19th inst., instituting in each of the twenty-two military divisions of France an Administrative Council comprising one civil functionary. The Council is instructed to propose all measures necessary for the organisation and management of the troops, particularly with regard to the instruction of recruits and their formation into companies.

THE EX-EMPEROR AND EMPRESS INTERVIEWED.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* has very recently had an interview with the ex-Emperor. He writes:—"Napoleon III. was seated before a desk encumbered with documents, books, and newspapers. The apartment he uses as a study is a small square room, not unlike the cabinet he occupied at the Tuileries. Though labouring under a severe cold, attended by a slight attack of gout, the Emperor looked in every respect as well as when I last saw him at St. Cloud in July last—just three days before M. de Gramont's declaration in the French Senate, which preluded the present calamitous war. At that time, however—much as his enemies now accuse him of being solely responsible for plunging France into the conflict whose result has proved so disastrous to her and to him—I can conscientiously aver my conviction that Napoleon had come to no such resolution as that which has been attributed to him. I reminded him, to-day, that he had spoken to me at St. Cloud of the Hohenzollern incident, which he had regarded as entirely 'finished'; and that he had referred to his projects of *villegiatura*, which would enable him, he hoped, to obtain some weeks of rest and recreation, after the labours and excitements of the recent *plébiscite*. 'Yes,' said the Emperor, with a sigh, '"*l'homme propose, mais Dieu dispose.*" I had no wish to make war, but fatality willed that it should be so. Public opinion was aroused in its favour, and I was obliged to acquiesce in the popular wish. You see to what it has brought us.' His Majesty then spoke of the disasters of the campaign, culminating in the final blow inflicted upon France and Sedan; and he declared that surrender was the only means of preventing a total massacre of the army. On these points there is little to be said to-day which has not already been said over and over again; and the Emperor confidently relies upon the verdict of history to exonerate him from all the charges now heaped upon his head by excited detractors, who for the most part base their animadversions upon mere hearsay. He alluded, indeed, but without bitterness, to the numberless calumnies of which he is the object in many parts of France—calumnies which he is now powerless to refute, and of which only a few stray waifs, gathered here and there from newspapers received at Wilhelmshöhe, ever fall under his notice. One of these was a paragraph in the *Indépendance Belge*, copied from a French journal, stating that M. Delesvaux, formerly President of the Sixth Chamber of Correctional Police at Paris, had committed suicide; and adding, that each of the sentences inflicted upon Parisian journalists, during his career as a magistrate, brought M. Delesvaux a handsome pecuniary present from the Government. 'That,' said the Emperor, 'is an infamous lie; but no doubt many persons will be found to believe it.' He spoke in despondent terms of the present distracted condition of France—a prey to a foreign foe without, and to anarchy within. He scarcely dared, under existing circumstances, to hope for better things. But when I ventured to ask if the time would not come soon when his friends would be authorised, by his own initiative, to make some movement to retrieve his fortunes, the Emperor at once replied, that the sole aim of France must now be, to drive out the invader of her soil; and he would never, by word or deed, throw obstacles in the way of accomplishing that task, or take steps that would impede the national defence. The Emperor is deeply interested in the current opinion of England, and reads carefully all the principal English newspapers and reviews."

A communication from a lady who has visited the Empress appears in the *Scotsman*. She writes:—"The Empress was, contrary to my expectation, looking well and cheerful. Her conversation about France was hopeful. She evidently believes that the majority of the French people still look upon her husband as their lawful ruler. The Empress loves France more than she loves power, and any one who will aid in saving France from Prussia she looks upon as her friend, and she will never be found plotting against him, be he Imperialist or Republican. Her Majesty was dressed in a brown walking costume. She wore a small black straw hat, bound around the brim with black silk. The brim was narrow and drooping. On the left side was a large black bow. Her veil was of black thread lace. In her right hand she carried a substantial brown wood cane, of which she made good use as a walking stick. She wore no jewellery of any kind. The ladies of her Majesty's suite wore black hats similar to that of the Empress. They all wore silk petticoats, with tunics and jackets of some other material. Some of them carried canes like the Empress, and those who did not carried their umbrellas as such. The gentlemen wore dark grey trousers, black coats, and round-toed boots. The Empress walked first, with one of the gentlemen, and the others followed by couples."

In reply to the statement recently revived by one "Max Pol" in the Paris *Siècle*, and repeated in some of the English papers, to the effect that the Emperor has a large sum of money invested in various funds and stocks, a letter has been addressed by M. Piétri to the *Indépendance Belge*, in which he says that the whole of the assertions are completely false, and he is perfectly confounded at such "perfidious inventions."

The *Economist* says that in well-informed circles in the City the statements which have published in Paris respecting the ex-Emperor's private property in London are asserted and believed to be incorrect. The Emperor, so far at least as his private affairs in London are concerned, was in fact not rich, but poor. The memorandum which is alleged to have been discovered in the statement of the Emperor's private account in London in 1866, and on the faith of which he is supposed to have held at that time upwards of 900,000*l.*, is pronounced a forgery, and there is at any rate no foundation for the construction which has been put upon it as a list of the Emperor's property at the time.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MISERIES OF THE PEASANT IN WAR.—I left you, in my last letter, without the touching story of my unkempt, ragged, and miserable French peasant, who brought me, in his ever-so-much-more miserable cart, over the road between Citry and this place. Let me now continue; for the portrait and the story are both so typical of the war, that they cannot fail to be something more than merely interesting. The man had been a peasant proprietor in the neighbourhood of Vitry-le-François, and he was "required"—in military parlance—fifty days ago; that is to say, he was ordered to follow the army with his cart and three horses, not being allowed even time enough for preparation to take a change of clothes with him. During those fifty days he was kept incessantly on the move, to the extent of from thirty to forty-five miles per diem, always carrying a heavy load. He never once had a meal of meat, nor slept under a roof; forage for his horses he got regularly, but nothing else. Every now and then a peasant would give him a hunch of bread, or a good-natured soldier would bestow upon him part of his ration of baked potatoes. I gave him the first glass of wine he had tasted since he left his home. Remember, he is an old man, accustomed to a certain amount of ease. Meanwhile, his son having been also "required" at the same time as himself, his fields are going to rack and ruin; he has knocked up his horses, till they are fit only for the knacker; and his clothes are reduced to a mere collection of filthy tatters, for which no speculator in that line would give fourpence. When he found out that I was sorry for him, he begged me, with tears in his eyes, to intercede for him with the Etappen Commandant here, that, when he had executed his orders in conveying me hither, he might be dismissed, and allowed to return home—a six days' journey for his broken-down horses. I am glad to say that I succeeded in procuring his emancipation; and he has gone on his way rejoicing, though ruined. Whilst recounting his woes, which he did quite unaffectedly and with a self-control that touched me far more keenly than the loudest lamentations would have done, he spoke favourably of the Prussians—who, he said, were very good men, not cruel or even rough to him; but he complained bitterly of the Government which "had deceived all the peasants by promising them peace at the plébiscite time, and then making war for a *querelle d'Allemand*. See you, my good little sir," he repeated over and over again, "we are all spoilt (*abimes*)—we are unhappy as stones. All our stores are eaten up; we have no seed for our spring crops any more; our horses are lamed or wearied to death; we shall all burst of hunger, there is nothing else to do. Those gentlemen who made the war have saved themselves in England with millions; and *we* must all starve, or beg bread of the enemy—who, my faith, gives it to us. It is true that he has taken it all away before, but that was not his fault, for France began the war." The speaker's lamentable condition is that of thousands on thousands of French peasants, most of whom have no prospect whatever of making good, during their whole lifetime, the losses they have sustained by the present war. Should it last much longer, they will die, like flies, of hunger, cold, and typhus; the last of those evils having already manifested itself among them. I tell you that their sufferings are terrible—positively heart-breaking, to witness.—*Correspondent of the Telegraph.*

M. GAMBETTA.—M. Gambetta (says a correspondent who has had an interview with him) is a dark, powerfully-built man, with a very large head. His long hair, not unconscious of a grey strand, hangs over a forehead lofty and massive. The countenance is certainly one of great power and determination, if not handsome in feature. But those who have heard him spoken of as the "young tribune of Marseilles," and all the rest of it, would be rather surprised to mark his bodily presence. It appears from the telegrams that M. Gambetta has already returned to Tours from his visit to the Vosges, which must have been a very rapid one. A few days ago the Tours Government sent men round the city to tear down the proclamation of M. Gambetta, in which he announced three days previously that on the 12th inst. the Prussians were dislodged from "all" their positions round Paris by a general sortie. It is now known that no sortie of consequence was made on that day, and that the report was altogether without foundation.

THE DEFENCES OF PARIS.—MAKING EARTHWORKS.—From without, as well as from within, it may be ascertained that the earthworks are being vigorously pushed forward. We need no French report to tell us that thousands of men are busy with spade and pickaxe in strengthening the redoubt at Villejuif. I turned my telescope in that direction this afternoon, and could see them working like bees on the hillside west of the church. There is a good standpoint just above "Robinson," whence everything towards Villejuif may be clearly distinguished. Looking over the deserted tea-garden, named, I suppose, in the perverse way of our dear old friends the "Swiss Family Robinson," in compliment to Mr. Crusoe, you may trace the outline of the French redoubt in a mass of newly heaped up earth. It is light-coloured earth, and shows with great distinctness like a yellow sandhill by the sea-shore. Turn the glass upon it, and you will have a view of what they are doing. The three or four miles of intervening gardens and villages will vanish for a time, whilst the Republican soldiers come suddenly close to hand. When I saw them to-day my attention was caught by some small parties at work below the redoubt, and I noticed that they were especially busy in raising a bank, or curtain, to protect the approach from Fort Bicêtre. It was very interesting to watch the officers and men going in all directions over the hill-side. They were flanked, as it were, by the position above "Robinson"—for I looked considerably to the right of Paris, which was as near to me as was Villejuif—and this distant flanking of their line of communication made the defences that they raised all the easier to examine. Now one man passed along, now two or three went by together, as though sent in a hurry on some errand. The groups of labourers were very energetic in spading up the earth, and I could distinguish the arrival of an officer of rank who walked leisurely down the line accompanied by several of his subordinates. A strong force seemed ready to support the working parties, for there was a bivouac beside the road which crosses the hill, and another a little further away, and there were detachments of infantry placed here and there in rear of the redoubt. This outlying redoubt of Villejuif is the most advanced of the French posts to the south-eastward. It was at first abandoned by the French, and taken possession of by the Germans. But being commanded by Fort Bicêtre, it was untenable by the besiegers, and was reoccupied by the French in their sortie of September 30th.—*Letter from the German Headquarters.*

THE IMPERIAL CORRESPONDENCE.—The revelations (says a letter from Paris) are extraordinary. There was a regular staff of rascals kept in readiness to get up plots at necessary moments. The four Italians of 1863 were of this band; the rioters of June, 1869, the smashers of kiosques and omnibuses were of this select company. The grand plot of 1870 was got up by these rascals to favour the *plébiscite*. The judge, Grandpierret, worked into their hands: they were condemned to seven years' penal servitude, and let off the first night after with 20 to 50,000*f.* hush-money. Grandpierret, you will remember, was the creature who judged the Pierre Bonaparte affair, at Tours. The infamous Baudin, who was the principal witness for Pierre Bonaparte, received 500,000*f.* for his perjuries. Some details in the Emperor's cash account are instructive; the Murat family received annually

4,444,740f.; the remaining members of the Imperial family, 1,310,975f.; the baptism of the Prince Imperial is put down as costing 98,000f.; the Emperor was in the habit of paying General de Failly's *bonbons* (this gentleman's consumption amounted to 1,296f. annually). He must have had a good digestive system. Jerome David received 3,000f. per month, General Cassagnac 160,000f. per annum. It will probably appear that other members of the Right will have received nice little sums. The 2,000,000f. secret funds all went to the spies and police. On the day that Palikao declared to the Chamber that the Emperor had no longer authority in the army, he telegraphed to him for instructions as to whether MacMahon was to succour Bazaine, or to march on Paris. The Emperor continued in entire command to the end. On the 19th August, Bazaine telegraphed to the Emperor that his troops were worn out with incessant fighting, and must have two days' repose at any cost. After this he would march to Chalons by Mezières and Sedan. The Emperor was accompanied during the campaign by a ridiculous number of cooks, valets, &c. The minute details of this administration are pitiful. Two tables were served every day, one for the aides-de-camp and suite, another apart for the Emperor; and the "carte" was most luxurious, during the days that the soldiers were fasting for days together.

Discipline in the French Army.—A military correspondent of the *Presse*, published in Vienna, draws a very gloomy picture of the state of the army in the south of France. Lyons may be successfully defended by the French forces which have been raised in its neighbourhood; but they are utterly unfit for offensive operations. Composed of rough, wild, undisciplined men, the Army of the Loire cannot be relied upon. It is, besides, thoroughly disorganised; all traces, not merely of obedience, but even of good feeling, on the part of the soldier to his officer, have disappeared. In proof of this assertion, the writer describes a scene he witnessed at a railway-station. A colonel was seated at the window of a first-class carriage. On this a number of private soldiers made a rush. The officer endeavoured to keep them out, asking them not to enter this carriage until they had found it impossible to find room in those allotted to them. But in vain. A young soldier of the Line, who was sober, resorted to force, and attempted to push the colonel back from the window into the carriage. When he failed in accomplishing this, he resorted to abuse; and assailed his superior with the most offensive language, and with threatening gestures. "I could scarcely believe my eyes," exclaims the correspondent. He was destined to see more surprising things, however. In the next carriage sat a lieutenant-colonel and a captain. Note this also; four private soldiers attempted to make their way. There again another "scene" occurred. The captain at last invoked the aid of the station-master against his own men, and, having succeeded in excluding them by means of this ally, he was hooted by the soldiers. Four wounded Zouaves were then brought into the carriage. "Not a little to my astonishment," says the writer, "the captain launched forth along with these people into the most violent abuse of the Emperor, the general staff, and all the superior officers. It soon became clear to me how, under such circumstances, the spirit of the men should become as bad as it could be."

The Crown Princess of Prussia.—The *Cross Gazette* takes the following account of the life of Her Royal Highness at Homburg from a private letter:—"Our Crown Princess has now been here for four weeks. She herself carries refreshments in a basket to the patients in the Lazareth. She has had everything there arranged in the most excellent manner. She has had the beds covered with white sheets and coverlets, and neat curtains put up. By her order flowers are placed in the rooms, and a concert was given by the band of the Kurhaus, on which occasion the wounded were carried in their beds into the court of the barracks. She has caused several old servants of the old English marchioness to be summoned to visit her. She has also visited the wounded Major S. and the Landrath, to the latter of whom she entrusted presents for the male and female attendants on the wounded, with whom she converses in a very friendly manner. Her youngest son is very like his handsome old grandfather, the King; it is always a pleasure to see him, he is such a splendid child. The Crown Princess beyond all doubt possesses a great deal of energy, and she is fond of simplicity and good order. The Fire Guard here desired to place a guard of honour at the castle, but she refused the offer with thanks. She arrived with her children in a carriage. No one recognised or saluted her; a splendid entrance had been expected, and she was past. She has generally one of her children on her lap when she drives out. It is no wonder she has gained all hearts, especially those of the mothers. She has also had an open hand for the inhabitants of Strasbourg in their need; many of them who had fled are now returning home."

The Perils of Ballooning.—The following exciting narrative of a balloon ascent and descent, dated Paris, October 12, is written by a balloon passenger:—"Our balloon left on the same day as that of M. Gambetta. It may have been that the atmospheric conditions were unfavourable to the ascension; but in any case our balloon was too lightly constructed; for I now learn from the gas establishment that although its cubic contents were only 1,200 metres, it absorbed 2,100—a fact denoting a most frightful escape. The fact is, that after mounting rapidly to the height of about 1,500 yards, and within a quarter of an hour of our departure from La Villette, we fell with fearful rapidity, and although we threw out all our ballast, came down at a quarter past three, only a hundred yards from the Prussian lines and near the village of Duguy, where the enemy occupies an important position in a windmill. While yet in the air we had been fired upon, and we heard dozens of bullets whistling between the car and the balloon. What a fright we were in! As our balloon touched the ground for the second time, after a rebound, I jumped out and succeeded in holding it down till my companions, the aeronaut and young Frederick, escaped. Lightened of our weight the balloon sprang up again, and I hope our correspondence which it carried away may have ultimately reached its destination. There were in a bag all the correspondence with the Intendant Perrier and the Minister of War, besides several letters and newspapers, a revolver, and my clothes. The Prussians opened fire upon us immediately. We were in a cabbage-field flooded knee-deep in water. The bullets whistled about us in all directions, and strewed cabbage-stalks at our feet. We walked on as fast as we could through the mire, and I tore up a letter which I had written to you, and which might have compromised me had the Prussians found it. The fire ceasing from the windmill, we went on towards it, as all seemed quiet, but when within only forty or fifty yards we were fired upon again by volleys of fifty or sixty shots at a time. Having heard French spoken in an opposite direction, we turned round, thinking we were saved, but presently our own France-tireurs opened upon us, and we were between two fires. In this extremity we laid down under some willow-trees, and not upon the ground, but in the water. For fully half-an-hour we heard the bullets whistling over our heads from the Prussians and from the Francs-tireurs. Presently the Fort de l'Est joined in the chorus with its cannon, and sent fifteen shells at the Prussians. Some of these projectiles set fire to a chateau. We suffered a thousand deaths. I shall never forget it. I told my companions that our only chance was to lie motionless. My principal fear was lest our limbs should be so benumbed from the wet that we should be unable to move. We remained in our positions fully three hours and a half. The Prussians must have thought us dead. When night came on we crept away on all fours, and came to a ditch six yards wide and full of water. My companions could not swim, and I scarcely know how they got across it, for before attempting the passage I tried the depth at six different places and found it up to my neck. After two hours' difficult marching, we came upon a post of Francs-tireurs, who luckily did not fire upon us. We were taken prisoners and taken to Saint Denis, where the next morning we made ourselves known to General Bellemare, and were allowed to return to Paris."

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

After the 1st of November the Emperor's head will be no longer recognised by the French post-offices as a passport for letters. There are to be new stamps, with the lady who usually represents the Republic, and the words, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Strange to say, since the beginning of the siege of Paris, not a murder or a suicide has been reyorted.

After explanations exchanged with the Prussian authorities, the town councillors of Ablis, who were made prisoners, have been set at liberty.

The loss of property in Strasbourg is immensely reduced from the first hasty estimates, and it does not appear that the lives of citizens sacrificed by shells have exceeded 250 at the outside, though some still lie in the hospital wounded. The railroad station was reopened for traffic on the 14th inst.

Victor Hugo has refused to leave Paris by balloon to stimulate the enthusiasm of the provinces, on the ground that he wishes to devote himself to the defence of the capital. He has addressed an appeal to the Parisians in which he implores them to cease from all internal disputes and unhappy differences, which will be only of service to the Prussians. There is nothing now, he says, but France here and Prussia there. Nothing exists but this urgency. What is the question of the day? To fight. What is the question of to-morrow? To conquer. What is the question of every day? To die.

A letter from Dieppe says that Alexandre Dumas is dying near there, at a little village called Puys. His son and daughter are with him. He has had a paralytic stroke, and has fallen into second childhood.

The Mayor of Palaiseau (that pretty village in the neighbourhood of Paris immortalised by the story of the Maid and the Magpie) has been executed by the Prussians. His house was occupied by half-a-dozen of the enemy's officers, who came to settle the terms of a requisition. An altercation ensued, and the Mayor, Dr. Morère, an old man of seventy-five, losing his temper, drew a revolver, and fired off six barrels at the officers, wounding four of them badly. The other two seized the Mayor, who was summarily tried and shot within an hour. The natives of Palaiseau who have taken refuge in Paris, have resolved to erect a monument to their devoted Mayor whenever they return home.

M. Rochefort had the honour of receiving *les dames de la Halle* recently, but appears to have escaped the infliction which usually attaches to the ceremony of being kissed by each of the ladies forming the deputation. In 1848, when the *dames de la Halle* desired to salute Lamartine, the poet dexterously evaded the proffered salutes by saying, "*Mes amies*, it is women only who kiss; but you are men by patriotism; like men I shall treat you; we shall shake hands."

The German papers continue to report outrages by peasants. On the 16th forty-eight Alsatians, who had fired on German soldiers and had been captured with arms in their hands at Ammersweiler, were taken to Ingolstadt. A letter from Livry, near Paris, states that several Saxon soldiers, who had left the hospital in order to return to their regiments, were surprised on the border of a wood by half a dozen persons in civilian dress, who threw them down, gouged them, and ran away. "We have been ordered," adds the writer, "to shoot down all civilians whom we find in the woods, and we have always to observe the greatest caution, and never go about unarmed. They are a bad people with whom we have to deal, and our own interest requires us to keep them in check. Their animosity is indescribable."

Up to the 4th inst., the German losses (including those sustained at Strasbourg and Toul) were as follows:—Total dead, 522 officers, 7,675 men; total wounded, 1,553 officers, 32,945 men; total missing, 124 officers, 5,860 men. The above figures show that the proportion of killed to wounded is barely as one to four, a proportion generally exceeded on both sides during the Crimean war, and as a rule in all previous campaigns. It would therefore seem that the greater precision of modern arms does not produce the result which has been confidently asserted, and which we should have been inclined to expect.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay had the pleasure (says Dr. Russell) of being arrested and carried off in triumph to the police-station by the French, his appearance leaving in the minds of his captors not a doubt that he was a Prussian spy. Rather a cruel return this for the 20,000*l.* he brought into Paris for the Société Internationale de Secours, at the risk, which most messengers who enter Paris run, of being shot at by excited Gardes Mobiles or Francs-tireurs. However, he was not very long detained a prisoner.

A telegram from the German head-quarters, Versailles, states that the officer guarding the Prussian communications at Stenay reports that on the 11th inst., in consequence of a sortie from Montmédy, he had been forced to retire. This is the affair which was reported by a telegram from Arlon the week before last, and in which the garrison of Stenay was surprised in the early hours of the morning, and seven officers and 200 men captured by a French detachment of 500 men, along with a large quantity of clothing, arms, munitions, and a military chest.

It is stated that Garibaldi has invited M. Hauke, chief in the last Polish insurrection, to join him in France. M. Hauke, better known under his *nom de guerre* of Bossak, has written to announce his acceptance of Garibaldi's invitation.

Of the Paris termini, five, those of Strasbourg, Lyons, Orleans, Mont Parnasse, and Sceaux, are closed. From St. Lazare people travel still on the circular railway. From the Bastille travellers go as far as Bel-Air, and from the northern terminus as far as St. Denis.

The first meeting of a committee which has been formed for the purpose of promoting a fund for assisting the refugees whom the war has driven from France, was held at the Mansion House on Friday, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. Among those who took part in the proceedings were Archbishop Manning, Sir Henry Hoare, M.P., the Rev. Henry White, and Mr. Foster White. Several ladies of rank were also present, including the Countess of Paris, the Princess Marguerite of Orleans, the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian, and the Countess of Londonderry. It was resolved to form a society to be called the Refugee Benevolent Fund, and an amendment moved by Sir Henry Hoare limiting the operation of the fund to French refugees, was negatived. A committee of ladies and gentlemen was formed to carry out the resolutions of the meeting, and subscriptions to the amount of 650*l.* were announced.

A Madrid telegram of October 20 says M. Kératry's friends having persuaded him of the inutility of soliciting material aid, he has confined himself, in an interview with Prim, to asking the legalisation of the export of arms and horses. This was declined, Prim saying that Spain would not violate her neutrality. Kératry has left for Tours.

The German armies before Paris are now supplied with 25,000 tons of projectiles for the siege of the French capital.

The torchlight demonstration on Wednesday night turned out a wretched failure. The night was wet and boisterous, and might have had something to do with it, but at the hour appointed seven roughs, bearing torches, and followed by between twenty and thirty others, proceeded down the Strand to Palace-yard, where about 600 persons, attracted by curiosity, hung about. The speaking was of the poorest order, and the whole affair was beneath contempt.

Eleven-twelfths of the municipal taxes have been remitted at Versailles to alleviate the burden of the war.

The superior military commands have now been definitively constituted as follows:—In the Northern Region General Bourbaki has the chief command, with his head-quarters at Lille; in the Western Region, General Fierck, with his head-quarters at Le Mans; in the Central Region, General de Polhès, with head-quarters at Bonrges; in the East, General Cambriens, with head-quarters at Besançon.

The Crown Prince of Prussia has ordered the transfer of the collections of art treasures from Sèvres to Versailles.

The *Daily News* fund for the relief of the distressed peasantry of Northern France has reached the sum of 6,123*l.*

George Francis Train has presented himself at

Marseilles, where he has been "orating" in his usual magnificent manner. His ravings appear to have excited a sympathetic frenzy in his hearers.

It is estimated that bridges have been destroyed in France to the value of eight millions sterling.

The Archbishop of Tours has indignantly denied the report that he welcomed Garibaldi to the city. So far from having done so, as soon as he heard of the approaching arrival of Garibaldi, he went to M. Crémieux and said:—"I had thought that Divine Providence had finished the measure of the humiliation which it imposed upon this country. I was mistaken. There was one supreme humiliation reserved for us, that of seeing Garibaldi arrive here, giving himself, before all the world, the mission of the saviour of France."

There are still about 1,000 British subjects in Paris, a great portion of whom are totally destitute.

There is a doubtful report that the King of Bavaria, the King of Wurtemberg, the Grand Dukes of Baden and Hesse, are going to Versailles, where in conjunction with the German princes now there, they will hold a grand council, at which the King of Prussia will be declared Emperor of Germany.

The German official papers at Nancy state that, in consequence of an attack by Francs-tireurs at Flavigny and Vézelize, on gendarmes, two of whom were wounded and six captured, the populations, whose complicity was unequivocal, have been fined 1,200*l.* and 4,000*l.* The mayors and municipal councillors have been seized as hostages. The houses whence the attack proceeded have been burnt, and the whole community are threatened with a like punishment unless the captured gendarmes are immediately liberated.

The soldiers condemned to death by the *conseil de guerre* for desertion before the enemy in the combat of Chatillon have obtained a revision of the sentence.

A telegram from Luxembourg announces the arrival there on Friday of Prince Henry of the Netherlands. He met a very enthusiastic reception from the inhabitants; and a manifesto signed by twenty-six societies of the capital and the common council, urging the maintenance of neutrality and independence of the Grand Duchy, was presented to His Royal Highness, who assured the deputation that the neutrality of Luxembourg would not be violated, and expressed his confidence in the Powers who signed the Treaty of London.

The official paper published under the direction of the German Governor of Alsace announces that a commission has been appointed for the purpose of completely restoring Strasbourg Cathedral, "that jewel of the German nation." The scaffolding will be immediately erected, and in a few weeks, it is hoped, every trace of the recent lamentable period will have disappeared from the magnificent edifice. The German people, adds the governor, will joyfully contribute the necessary means.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An Irish March to France and Back Again.—A paragraph in the *Pall Mall Gazette* describes the adventures and fate of the "Irish Ambulance Corps." The steamer John Bull arrived at St. Katherine's wharf on Thursday from Havre, having on board about fifty men, the remainder of 130 who left London about a fortnight ago as volunteers in the Irish Ambulance Corps. It seems that on their arrival at Havre they were received by a Captain Dyer, who complimented them on their appearance, and gave to each a bumper of brandy, telling them to be in readiness to sail the following morning at six o'clock for Caen, as that was the head-quarters of the corps. On arriving at Caen they were detained five hours in a heavy rain awaiting Captain Dyer, and on his arrival they were marched to the barracks of the Garde Mobile, where they were kept for two days in a state of semi-starvation. On the third day they asked for a return of their passage-money, as this had been promised before they left England. Dyer told them that the Irish Ambulance Corps was found to be quite unnecessary, but that all of them would be expected to join the Irish Legion, of which he had the honour to be the commandant. With the exception of fifteen men, all refused, and of these fifteen four withdrew their names. Dyer was very indignant, and left, as he said, for Tours, to inform the Government, and to see what must be done with them. They were kept in barracks, under the charge of armed sentries, until the return of Dyer four days afterwards, when they were taken in a steamer to Havre. Here they were handed over to the British Consul, who sent them back to England.

No More Guarantees.—The *Economist* says:—"It is said that no evils have arisen now, but, on the contrary, great blessings—that we have not been involved in war by our guarantees of Belgium and Luxembourg, and that in consequence of it those countries, which must otherwise have shared this war, have all through it been as happy and calm as England. Why, it is said, should a guarantee given to Alsace and Lorraine be more hurtful? and why is it not equally beneficial? But you might as well argue that the safety-valve of an engine might be closed up, because the rest of the engine had no holes. The reason why Belgium and Luxembourg have not now been disturbed is that the combatant nations had Alsace and Lorraine to fight in. If you guarantee them, too, a slip of 'guaranteed' territory will run between France and Germany all the way from the sea to Switzerland, which is itself guaranteed or 'neutralised.' Between the two nations now fighting there will be a belt of charmed land for the future; and they cannot fight without crossing it. But who can doubt that one or other would cross it some time, and then one of our guarantees—no matter which—must be performed by the guarantor?"

The Lust of Conquest.—The *Cologne Gazette* says that it has received a whole heap of German pamphlets advocating the annexation by Germany of various French territories on the pretext of her requiring "a strategical frontier." What used to be called conquests, observes the *Gazette*, are now called improvements of strategical frontiers. "Nor is the lust of conquest shown by our German pamphleteers," it continues, "confined to France. One writer casts a covetous eye on Switzerland. Tell and Winkelried, according to him, belong to an antiquated past. Switzerland is only a German land cut off from the old German Empire, and the heroic deeds praised by Schiller were rank treason. Another treats Belgium and Holland as German States separated from Germany, whose annexation is only a question of time; while others, again, already speak of the reunion of the Baltic provinces of Russia with the German Empire. There are some, too, who are not satisfied with the three duchies which we have taken from Denmark. The first 'demand,' they say, of the new Germany must be for the abolition of the fifth article of the Treaty of Prague, and the consequent retention of the Danish portion of North Schleswig: and it is even hinted that Germany ought also to have Jutland as far as the Skaggerrack." Such ideas, adds the *Gazette*, are perhaps not surprising after the unexampled victories achieved by the German nation in 1866 and 1870; but it is extraordinary to see Count Bismark, the Minister of a German State which has risen by a series of conquests from small beginnings to its present greatness, allege in his diplomatic circulars that Metz ought to be in the possession of Germany because the Germans are incapable of making conquests.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

One of the managers of the French and Irish Ambulance Corps was charged at Bow-street, on Friday, with violating the sixth section of the Foreign Enlistment Act. Sir Thomas Henry refused bail, and the prisoner was remanded. Warrants are out for the apprehension of the other managers.

The threatened torchlight demonstrations, of which the one the other night was to have been the first, have, it is said, collapsed, owing to the most important bodies in the combined "Intervention Council" having declared their steadfast objection to any proposed "defensive alliance with France," and protested against any warlike resolutions whatever. The peace party have separated from the war party, and it is now proposed to hold a public meeting under cover, for the purpose of appointing delegates to wait upon Count Bismark in the interests of peace. Mr. Beales is to be asked to preside.

One effect of the war has been to cause our Post Office to make use of the Brindisi route in the transmission of letters to India and China. A Post Office notification intimates that, as the French route is subject to sudden interruptions, it is advisable at once to send the mails through Belgium and Germany, over the Brenner Pass, to Brindisi.

Baden Baden is now crowded with visitors. The promenade before the Kursaal, where the concerts are again taking place in the open air, sometimes looks as though we were in the height of the season.

Thomas Carlyle on the War.—The *Weimar Gazette* publishes a few extracts from a letter written by Mr. Thomas Carlyle, with reference to the war, in which he says:—"Your anxieties about the war must have been of short duration; in fact, they must after the first few days' practical experience have been changed into bright hope, into a hope increasing in rapid geometrical progression till it obtained its present dimensions. So far as my reading goes, there never was such a war, never such a collapse of shameless human vanity, of menacing, long-continued arrogance, into contemptible nothingness. Blow has followed blow as if from the hammer of Thor, till it lies like a shapeless heap of ruins, whining to itself, 'In the name of all the gods and all the devils, what is to become of us?' . . . . All Germany may now look forward to happier days in a political sense than it has seen since the Emperor Barbarossa left it. My individual satisfaction in all this is great, and all England, I can say all the intelligent in England, heartily wish good fortune to brave old Germany in what it has accomplished—a real transformation into one nation, no longer the chaotic jumble which invited the intrusion of every ill-disposed neighbour, especially of that ill-disposed France which has inflicted on it such interminable mischief during the last 400 years—wars heaped upon wars without real cause except insatiable French ambition. All that, through God's grace, is now at an end. I have, in my time, seen nothing in Europe which has so much delighted me. 'A brave people,' as your Göethe calls them, and as I believe a peaceful and a virtuous one. I only hope that Heaven will send them the wisdom, patience, and pious discretion to turn to a right use all has been achieved."

Hampstead Heath.—During the sitting of the Metropolitan Board of Works on Friday, the report of a committee appointed to negotiate the purchase of Hampstead Heath was brought up, which stated, in substance, that the Lord of the Manor, Sir John Maryon Wilson, had consented to sell the heath, comprising about 240 acres, and all his interests therein; with covenants not to build upon it, for a sum of 45,000*l.* and 2,000*l.* towards the legal and surveyor's charges and other expenses. It was recommended that steps should be taken to introduce a Bill into Parliament sanctioning the transaction. The report was adopted by the Board; and the committee was authorised to undertake the necessary arrangements for the completion of the purchase.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

A Cabinet Council was held on Thursday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Lowe left town yesterday on a visit to the Right Hon. G. J. and Mrs. Goschen, at Seacox-heath, Hurst-green.

The Premier and Earl Granville will remain in town.

Telegraphic wires are being laid to Hawarden Castle so that during the time Mr. Gladstone remains there, he may be supplied with all requisite communication.

Mr. George Moir, LL.D., the eminent lawyer and literary writer, died rather suddenly on Wednesday afternoon at his residence in Edinburgh.

Mr. Childers is personally engaged in a searching investigation into all the circumstances connected with the *Captain*, from the time of her being proposed to be built down to her loss; and also into the measures proposed or adopted relative to the building of turret-ships. The results of this investigation, which must occupy some days, will be embodied in a Minute by Mr. Childers, which will be made public.

There is a passage in Her Majesty's "Journal of Our Life in the Highlands" which receives an accession of interest from the impending marriage of the Princess Louise. It occurs in the description of the royal visit to Inverary. "Our reception," writes Her Majesty, "was in the true Highland fashion. . . . The pipers walked before the carriage, and the Highlanders on either side, as we approached the house. Outside stood the Marquis of Lorn, just two years old, a dear, white, fat, fair little fellow, with reddish hair, but very delicate features, like both his father and mother; he is such a merry, independent little child. He had a black velvet dress and jacket, with a 'sporran,' scarf, and Highland bonnet."

The *Athenæum* hears there will appear shortly a series of twelve brief poems by the Poet Laureate, which are connected by a love story, and will be illustrated by as many designs by Mr. Arthur Hughes. The verses will be accompanied by music, the composition of Mr. Sullivan, and issued in a handsome manner as a table-book of the first-class, in square octavo.

The *Orchestra* says M. Gounod, with his wife and two children, is living in the suburbs of London, in the utmost privacy.

It is rumoured that the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay a visit to the Empress of the French, at Chislehurst, in the course of a few days.

The Ministers present at the Council held on Monday by the Queen at Balmoral, where the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, and the Right Hon. W. E. Forster. The more immediate object of the Council was, it is said, to receive the Royal assent of Her Majesty to the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* has reason to believe that the Government have under their consideration a scheme for national defence, dissimilar in details to that proposed by Lord Elcho, but to a certain extent resembling it in principle.

A Cabinet Council was held on Thursday. The only Ministers absent were Mr. Bright, the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Bruce, and Mr. Forster (who is in attendance on the Queen at Balmoral).

The death is announced, in his sixty-third year, of Mr. Michael Balfe, the popular English composer. He died at his country home, Rowney Abbey, Herts.

The reconstruction of the Customs Department, which is being vigorously pushed on under the supervision of Mr. Stansfeld and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, will be accompanied by a thorough revision of the tariff. The tariff will be reduced to a few simple and intelligible heads.

The *Civilian* states that the Queen has resolved to settle 10,000*l.* a year on the Princess Louise, and it is not improbable that Parliament may be asked to supplement this sum by a grant of 6,000*l.* per annum.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge went out shooting on Saturday in Richmond Park. In the evening the Prince and Princess went to the Gaiety Theatre.

Lord Onslow died yesterday morning at his residence, Gloucester Villa, Richmond. His lordship would have completed his ninty-third year to-day.

A Town without a Public-house.—There is a town in Ireland which contains no public-house. Bessbrook is the name of the place, a manufacturing town near Newry. Its proprietor, a Mr. Richardson, with some members of the Society of Friends, founded the Bessborough Spinning Company, and erected spinning-mills. The factory has grown so large that it gives employment to 3,000 hands. There are no police in the place, Mr. Richardson alleging that so long as he keeps out the public-house they can do without police; but that as soon as the taproom is introduced, they will require the constabulary. The operatives are models of sobriety and good order, the town being wholly free from the sad scenes which are to be met with in much smaller populations. Would that we could chronicle many more towns of the same kind; it would conduce greatly to the lessening of disease and lowering of taxes.—*Lancet.*

Literature.

*THREE SCOTCHMEN OF MARK.**

Scotchmen are very often spoken of as though they were utterly unideal; yet the three men whose biographies are named below, while unlike in many things, resembled each other in this, that they were always ready to become the victims of their ideals. Burns consumed his energies in the almost fruitless effort to convert the Chinese to Christianity; Hamilton, to a large extent, sacrificed his most natural and spontaneous faculties to realise his high ideal of the Christian preacher; and Sir David Brewster might have been, perhaps, a yet greater philosopher, had not his ideal of the *Christian* philosopher been at once high and narrow. Indeed, it may be safely said that the tendency of the Scotch mind is to draw the world of truth up to a point in its ideal, instead of looking through it upon the world as through a glass, to find irregularities beneficially and tenderly rectified. Hence the intensity and irritable intolerance even of the best type of Scotchmen. This does not arise from conceit, strictly speaking, in any degree, but rather from a sense of self-depreciation, which, though often veiled under stolidity, appears in those who have most thoroughly emancipated themselves from narrow national prejudices; and is due to the brooding nearness and persecuting heat of their imaginations. Despising and heartily hating arbitrary rule, they would yet, if they could, be the most arbitrary rulers of others, and would compel obedience even where the rendering of it on their own part would be a conscious cutting off of all their natural and joyous activities. We see all this in Thomas Carlyle, for instance, who is a capital type of a Scotchman. He would have a political system which discouraged literature and forbade its cultivation, if that were possible; and yet does not his whole life prove how needful to a certain type of character is the relief of working in that line? Doubtless Carlyle could have done without the relief of letters, and would have made a very good drill-sergeant under a man like Frederick the Great; but can we conceive him never feeling the hunger for literature? Impossible! His vocation was literature, as the cycle of his works prove to us; yet where do you find more condensed contempt for literature in general, or more depreciatory hints, indirectly given, upon a writer's own works. Thomas Carlyle, too, is the victim of his ideal, which canonises action.

This characteristic expresses itself in thousandfold forms in the Scotch character. We see it in the reserve of tenderness which will make a mother, when sending out her best beloved son into the world, give him, instead of the clasp and kiss, the careless nudge, as she adjusts his cravat or other piece of dress, and tells him to "be sure an' kame his heid, and never stay "oot aifter the chap o' the clock at nicht, "wantin' leave." It is vitally characteristic of the Scotch that they are tyrants; but tyrants over themselves first of all, and sternly, in the light of their ideal, which has been educated and elevated by three hundred years of thorough education, for which they have in great part to thank John Knox,—who also was a tyrant, but had tamed the unruly monster in himself before he sought to rule over others.

An autocratic narrowness is thus inseparable from the character. A deep sympathy that needs no *signal* of reciprocation to repose or rest upon, and an economy and self-control which combine to render circumstances to a very great extent indifferent, have sprung out of this. Hence we see Scotchmen outwardly successful and contented in all portions of the civilised globe; but they seldom forget their country, and they lean on an ideal, of which they are slow to speak to strangers, and which sometimes affords a ground for wild outbreaks when the reserve is broken through, and a common understanding arrived at.

Now, our three Scotchmen are good specimens. They were all inclined to tyrannise, and in a special sense they were tyrants over themselves. There was something captivating in the grandeur of William Burns' self-consecration, and yet there was a certain gloomy narrowness associated with it. He never unbends. He turns neither to this side nor to that; but he scarcely has a smile for those for whom he would himself gladly walk through the fire. He has no fear; if a lion were in the way, he would overcome it by the unwinking calmness of his eyes. While fire burns within, consuming him, he possesses himself completely. He has all the cool readiness of the cautious, adroit man of the world. If the slightest touch of tender winningness had been but added to his temperament, he would have been almost the perfect missionary. As it is, his career forms an era in missionary enterprise, and the facts of his life are therefore worth recapitulating.

He was the son of an Evangelical minister of the Church of Scotland, who left the Establishment with Chalmers and his party at the Disruption to form the Free Church. He was brought up amid all the influences of Gospel precept and observance. The picture Dr. Islay Burns gives of the life in the father's manse is simple and beautiful in the extreme. But William Burns, while still at home, shows no sort of tendency to the religious life. He is robust, active, thoroughly enjoying out-of-door sports. He leaves home when about seventeen to enter a solicitor's office in Edinburgh; and there conversion comes. He at once sets out for home on foot, walking thirty-six miles, and tells his people he is to be a "minister." He studies hard, and is distinguished. No sooner is he "licensed" to preach than he becomes the central figure in a great religious revival. He went from town to town preaching with scarce any intermission; and he walked for most part from place to place, that he might speak or preach on the road, if he found opportunity. He and the revered Robert Murray McCheyne were united in this work. He had no ambition for a "settled" charge. He visited many towns in England and preached in them. He went out to Canada on an evangelising mission, was some years there, and preached and taught as he had done at home; and shortly after he returned, he went out to China as missionary for the Presbyterian Church in England. He was indomitable in the work. He adopted the Chinese dress and Chinese mode of life, thinking this would aid him in pushing into the interior; and, though other well-tried missionaries think he erred in this, there can be no doubt of the purity of the motive which led him to adopt the course he did. He had only one aim in life—saving souls. He over and over again, out of his small salary, sent large sums to send out other missionaries—in one instance, devoting his whole year's salary to this purpose. Every one who reads this biography must believe that William Burns' whole soul was in the work of Christianising China. So completely was he absorbed in it, that there cannot be any doubt that he considerably shortened his own life by the absolute indifference he showed to all relaxation and change. The terror of his life was that his faith should cool within him amid alien influences. If he ever sought change of scene or of society, it was purely to feed the ebbing current of his religious zeal. Most pathetic it is to read how he flies from the interior back to Hong Kong, that he might recruit his exhausted faith by a short contact with fellow-Christians. Intensity of moral character, consecrated under the Calvinistic conception of Christianity which wholly possessed his mind and heart, is the leading trait in him. He believed in no good to individuals or to society apart from this; and therefore he ruthlessly crucified his own capabilities in lighter and more tasteful ways, though he was a man of supreme brain, and proved his right to rank among scholars. Learning a language and becoming so proficient as to write hymns in it, and translate hymns and religious works into it, were the only amusements he allowed himself. He was learning Gaelic for the purpose of carrying the revival further into the Scotch Highlands, when he got the call to China; and very touching are the words in which Dr. Islay Burns describes the way in which he relinquished all his old associations.

"Before receiving this call, he was studying the Gaelic, and seldom had the Gaelic Psalm-book been out of his hand, but soon after this we saw that the Gaelic was laid aside and the encyclopædia was brought out, and he was busy studying the Chinese characters. I don't think he gave a decided answer to James Hamilton before the meeting of the Synod at Newcastle; but having heard that some timid persons were daunted by some difficulties that stood in the way, he said, 'That's the very thing that makes my call clear to go,' and at once packed his little carpet-bag to start for Newcastle. The day he went off, he was long in papa's study in prayer, and then coming out he silently wrung my hand, and looked solemnly round as if taking farewell of the house; he had his breadalbane plaid over his arm, and after reaching the front door he turned and hung it up in the lobby, taking one belonging to his *mother* instead, and giving me an expressive look as he did so. I was very much overcome, and watched his receding figure with the feeling that he would not return. I went into the study to give vent to my feelings, and found the Bible left open at Isaiah lxiv. 'Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens,' &c. On going to the drawing-room I found the Gaelic Testament and Psalm-book neatly put into one of the shelves, as if he had done with them, and I then said, 'William will return no more.'"

It were easy to point out defects in the character of such a man; the spirit of the life almost reproves the suggestion. The main faults in him are attributable to his country and his creed; what remains is a pure and beautiful exhibition of Christianity, in its loftier, severer form. However much we may deprecate some of his special religious views, something must in sheer justice be said for a form of belief that can flower up in a character like this into such nobility and heroism of action. The only relief from the still gravity of his earnestness is that a gleam of involuntary humour sometimes flashes out; one instance of which is when he is robbed (as, indeed, he was repeatedly), and left almost naked, he patiently teaches one of the thieves the use of a hone, by sharpening his razor upon it, as the thief had failed to discover its use. He made some converts at last, and gained such respect among out-of-the-way tribes, that in one or two cases his friends fancied he was lost, when after weeks he returned fat and well, having been "kept and fed up" by these rural Chinese, who would not let him away again! There must have been something loveable in Burns, too, in spite of the severity of his creed. He formed one or two churches, which increase and still cherish his memory. He died from cold caught in one of his expeditions. Dr. Islay Burns has produced an excellent biography, in which he himself appears but little.

Superficially viewed, Dr. James Hamilton, of Regent-square Church, seems a very different man from William Burns. Essentially they are more alike than might be supposed. Hamilton had naturally more of what Mr. Matthew Arnold calls "sweetness and light"; but he was a Puritan, and a Scotch Puritan, after all. See with what severity of enthusiasm he writes of the Disruption. There is not much room left there for the possibility of rightness on the part of those who at that crisis clung to the Establishment. It is characteristic that Hamilton visits the recusants with no harsh words, but rather follows Dante in "passing on and speaking not." His apparent self-satisfaction is apt to mislead. In no biography we have ever read have we found a strain of severer or more touching self-depreciation, than in this memoir of Dr. Hamilton. It is a life of restless activity, yet one of terrible self-censure. His ideal of literature was high; but his ideal of the Christian preacher was higher and had more absolute claims; and so, while he loved literature and always hoped for something from it, literature and science were only tormentors to him, interjecting vinegar into the wounds caused by the chafing of his too frequently uncongenial work whenever he returned to them. He sacrificed much of his peace and gladness (and was not his temperament, more than is the case with most Scotchmen, specially framed for gladness and hopeful energy?) to his stern ideal of duty, that rested on and never glided from, the picture of the faithful Presbyterian clergyman. He sternly strove to be faithful in a calling that was to a large extent uncongenial to him, witness his meek mournings over his time eaten up, consumed by the paltriest calls upon it. In spite of a gracious sweetness of manner, there lay deep down in James Hamilton the stern, Puritan-like directness, and the dislike to appear other than he was. He had none of the *finesse* of the world, and was not a man of society; although he so put restraint on himself, out of a sense of duty, that he shone in society, showing surely a good share of Scotch sagacity and self-control. He was a student, and his calling was really literature. A good deal of his dissatisfaction arose from a vague feeling that this was so. His life shows us how slow we should be to envy the man who seems to us sweet, self-satisfied, successful. Who, to those who met him casually in society, would have seemed more so than Dr. James Hamilton? Yet, his biographer tells us, he disliked dining out, and mourned over the time wasted by it. His delights were the quiet hours among his books, especially his favourites, the old Puritans; and very touching it is to read how his ambitions had at length all to give way to the imperious necessities of his charge. He himself writes to Dr. Hanna, in replying to an invitation to succeed Dr. Guthrie in Edinburgh—

"With a wonderful dislike to ecclesiastical affairs and to business generally, the course of events, and *the misjudging kindness of my brethren*, have compelled me to take more than a proportionate share of our Church's work; and, although it were for nothing else but the fear of weakening other's hands, I must abide at my post. I assure you it costs me a pang. Fully the half of my time is occupied in doing things which many men could do far better and which are to me unspeakably irksome. I try to accept them as 'the burden of the Lord,' but often I inwardly rebel, and your proposal revived for an instant the dreams of other days. The right hand which if I had not cut off, I had at least tied up many years ago, seemed as if it might yet regain its cunning; and now I feel more effort than I ought in

* 1. *Memoir of the Rev. W. C. Burns, M.A., Missionary to China.* By the Rev. Islay Burns, D.D., Glasgow. (Nisbet and Co.)
2. *Life of James Hamilton, D.D., F.L.S.* By William Arnot, Edinburgh. (Nisbet.)
3. *The Home-Life of Sir David Brewster.* By his daughter, Mrs. Gordon. (Edmonston and Douglas.)

removing a tempting opportunity and returning to the life of a Presbyterian factotum."

And again he writes in his journal in reference to his abandoned work—the Life of Erasmus :—

"It would have been pleasant to revise that prodigious range of literature, patristic and classical, of which Erasmus was editor. Owing to a secluded boyhood, and unlimited youthful leisure, without ever attaining accurate scholarship, I have read in these departments more than most people; and, after an abstinence of a quarter of a century, a strange longing for these books returns. Like the daisies and dandelions that come up in October, it is the revival of an impossible spring. For after giving to the work the spare hours and the autumn holiday of the last two or three years, I am constrained to abandon the task. This last winter had no leisure, and in the congregation a childish feud about the hymn-book was so conducted as to rob me of rest by night and peace by day; and perhaps, as a consequence of this, I find my elasticity a good deal impaired. So this day, with a certain touch of tenderness, I restored the eleven tall folios to the shelf, and tied up my memoranda, and took leave of a project which has sometimes cheered the hours of exhaustion, and the mere thought of which has always been enough to overcome my natural indolence. It is well: if a favourite play, it was also a great temptation. It was a chance, the only one I ever had, of attaining a small measure of literary distinction, and where there is so much 'pride and haughtiness of heart,' it is better to be unknown. Like the congregation of the Gascon preacher, who had forgotten his discourse, the world will never know what a treat it has lost; and not having this absorbent for spare hours, it is possible that to wife, and children, and people, there may be a gain in the abandonment of the *magnum opus*."

And this again is very characteristic, and has a direct bearing on much we have said :—

"I hope William Bunting will write a life of his father. It would be a far worthier employment for a coming year or two than those numberless good-natured services on which he disperses all his exquisite taste and great abilities. *The writing long letters of comfort to inconsolable, because dyspeptic, correspondents; the editing of books for people who are anxious to publish without being able to write, inditing poems for albums, and all that sort of thing, by which the devil, under false pretences, cheats clever and kind-hearted men out of the time which was given them for serving God and their generation.* I told him something of this yesterday, and he retorted by telling me that I was meant to be a preacher, and had gone aside into authorship. *If I could persuade myself that I am as well adapted for speaking as for writing, I would even yet abjure the press for the pulpit. But what with weakness, nervousness, an ungainly manner, and inability to rely on myself, I hardly think so.*"

Does not the Puritan speak sharply through the first sentence we have italicised? And does not the last one equally witness to the discontent and self-depreciation which accounts for much of the nervousness and irritability of Scotchmen? Dr. Hamilton's was a very beautiful and fruitful life; and had a great deal more of dramatic pathos at the bottom of it than the merely casual acquaintance would have guessed. Mr. Arnot sympathises exquisitely with the youthful portion of the life; but he somehow falls off as he draws near to the close; still the whole volume is singularly interesting, and here and there are passages of remarkable eloquence.

Mrs. Gordon has set forth her distinguished father very effectively with his dear domestic surroundings. Sir David Brewster was one of those men who are always on the edge of the very greatest truths; but who sometimes turn away at the critical moment and content themselves with picking up scraps. He was a great inventor; but he might have been greater, had it not been that he seemed occasionally to be afraid of truth leading him too far afield. He needed to escape from the impetus of his own constitution. Mrs. Gordon tells how he would work for days together without proper rest or refreshment, and then would relapse into a kind of idleness, till the fit for work came on again. He had all the Scotch intensity; and had a peculiar faculty for grasping and grouping details. He was irritable, impatient, dissatisfied with himself, and was in some points domineering and tyrannical. He occasionally fell out with friends unreasonably and because of the merest trifles. He was impatient of diversity of men's characters; and yet a world framed after Sir David's pattern would have been monotonous enough. He was severe in his religious opinions, and even on his death-bed relaxed nothing of his tense dogmatism. Dr. Herdman, reporting the last scene, says :—

"The wish of many to relax the creeds was referred to. 'He had no such wish; it was just an index of the restlessness of the age, and want of submission to what is revealed. He was thoroughly satisfied with our Confession of Faith.'"

No one can doubt Sir David's sincerity here, for the deliverance comports with the spirit of his life. He had little sympathy with the doubts, and fond clinging hopes rather than assured faith, of others; and he was of the type who would even *compel* in the sphere where compulsion is simply self-stultifying. But that was very much his temper, and in this he was a genuine Scot. Still, there were many beautiful traits in him, and Mrs. Gordon has touched them in this volume with a loving and reverent hand.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Popular Lectures on the Evidences of Religion. By B. HARRIS COWPER. (The Book Society.) Mr. Cowper, the editor of the late *Journal of Sacred Literature*, has been for many years past engaged in the hardest of all Christian works, that of combating the arguments and asseverations of secularist lectures in open controversy. So persistent have been his efforts and so cogent his reasoning that he has actually driven his opponents from the field in one wide district of London, and he has sensibly thinned their halls by his recent evangelistic efforts in another district. It is a matter of shame that so zealous a pioneer has been almost wholly unrecognised by our church organisations and religious societies until within the last twelve months, and that the formation of the "Christian Evidence Society," under whose auspices these lectures are published, is, even now, the only sign of any co-operation in so important a work. These ten lectures were delivered last winter in Shoreditch Town Hall on Sunday evenings. They were attended by numbers varying from 1,000 to 2,000 people on each occasion, chiefly of the working class. Our report of one of these services may be remembered. The effort was most successful, and it is interesting now to learn from these addresses, that such success cannot be attributed to anything else than the manly, earnest, scholarly style which characterises them from first to last. Mr. Cowper in his first lecture struck a key-note which brought him into harmony with his hearers on an important point, namely, the distinction between the Christianity of the Bible and the Christianity of dogmatic theology. His subsequent lectures deal with the internal and external evidences of the authenticity of Scripture, the relation of Scripture to Science, the fulfilment of prophecy, &c., &c. We can hardly exaggerate the value of this form of Christian activity in the present age, and it is peculiarly gratifying to learn, as we do by a circular enclosed in the copy of this book which has been forwarded to us, that Mr. Cowper is about to establish, or, has already established, a public Bible-class at the Young Men's Christian Association for the study of Christian Evidences. May God speed him in his work!

NOTICE.—*All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths

MARRIAGE.

BYLES—WILKINSON.—Oct. 19, at Headingley Hill Congregational Church, by the Rev. G. W. Conder, assisted by the Rev. A. H. Byles, the Rev. John Byles, of James-street Chapel, Blackburn, to Susan Mary, only daughter of T. J. Wilkinson, Esq., Leeds. No cards.

DEATHS.

FORBES.—Oct 16 after a lingering illness Henry Forbes, Harrogate, late of the firm of Milligan, Forbes, and Co., Bradford, aged seventy-six

ROOKE.—Oct. 23, at 3, Highbury Hill, London, after a short illness, Mary Ann, the beloved wife of Thomas James Rooke, Esq., aged fifty-nine.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Oct. 19.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,191,085	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,986,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	21,191,085
	£36,191,085		£36,161,085

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,131,442
Rest	3,100,302	Other Securities ..	10,65[illegible], 61
Public Deposits....	4 723,916	Notes	12,060 425
Other Deposits ...	13,330,856	Gold & Silver Coin	775,273
Seven Day and other Bills	914,627		
	£41,620,701		£41,620,701

Oct. 20, 1870 GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Rheumatic and Nervous Pains.—The chilly mornings and evenings will provoke these tortures in constitutions susceptible to these maladies. Nothing affords so much relief as Holloway's Ointment well rubbed upon the skin, after repeated warm fomentations. Thousands of testimonials bear witness to the wonderful comfort obtained from this safe and simple treatment, which all can adopt. Holloway's Ointment, assisted by the judicious use of his Pills, is especially serviceable in assuaging the sufferings from cramp and other muscular pains. Nor are these remedies less useful in arresting diarrhœa, in easing stomachic pains, and in removing other internal complaints prevalent in autumn, when profuse perspirations, suddenly checked, continually occasion these inconveniences.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Oct. 24.

We had only a moderate supply of English wheat fresh up for to-day's market. From abroad arrivals are liberal. The trade was again firm, and the greater part of the supply of English wheat was disposed of at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. on the rates of Monday last. Foreign wheat made 1s. more money. Country flour sold at an advance of 1s. per sack, and American barrels at 6d. above last week's rates. Peas and beans were unchanged in value. Malting barley was firm; grinding descriptions were 6d. per qr. higher. Of oats the arrivals are less abundant, and prices of Russian qualities ruled to-day 1s. 6d., those of Swedish oats 1s. per qr above the rates of Monday last. Indian corn was in request at 6d. per qr. advance. In cargoes on the coast and for shipment a large business has been done during the past week, and prices have improved fully 2s. on wheat and 1s. on Indian corn.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.		Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—			PEAS—		
Essex and Kent, red	—	to —	Grey	35	to 37
Ditto new	48	50	Maple	41	42
White	—	—	White	35	39
,, new	52	55	Boilers	35	39
Foreign red	48	51	Foreign, boilers ..	37	38
,, white ..	50	53			
			RYE	36	38
BARLEY—					
English malting ..	31	34	OATS—		
Chevalier	36	42	English feed.. ..	23	73
Distilling	35	38	,, potato ..	25	32
Foreign	33	34	Scotch feed .. .	—	—
			,, potato ..	—	—
MALT—			Irish black	20	21
Pale	—	—	,, white	20	22
Chevalier	—	—	Foreign feed.. ..	21	23
Brown	49	55			
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
Ticks	37	40	Town made ..	43	47
Harrow	40	44	Country Marks ..	33	40
Small	—	—	Norfolk & Suffolk	31	36
Egyptian	38	40			

BREAD, London, Saturday, Oct. 22.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Oct. 24.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 14,488 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 11,277; in 1868, 7,372; in 1867, 12,394; and in 1866, 15,021 head. Quietness has been the characteristic of the cattle trade to-day. Making due allowance for the stoppage of French and German boats at the waterside, the supply has been barely short of the average; whilst the quality of the receipts from our own grazing districts has been satisfactory on the whole. The Scotch beasts have come to hand in good condition. In all breeds, sales have progressed slowly; nevertheless, the best Scots and crosses have realised 8s. 10d. to 9s. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we have received 1,310 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England about 300 various breeds; from Scotland about 85 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, about 100 oxen. Only moderate supplies of sheep have come to hand. The trade has been quiet, and some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining last week's rates. The best Downs and half-breds have been disposed of at 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. Calves have sold quietly at about late rates. The demand for pigs has been inactive, on former terms.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8	to 4	6	Prime Southdown	5	8	to 6	0
Second quality	4	8	5	0	Lambs	0	0	0	0
Prime large oxen	5	2	5	8	Lge. coarse calves	3	6	4	6
Prime Scots, &c.	5	10	6	0	Prime small . .	5	0	5	10
Coarse inf. sheep	3	6	3	10	Large hogs . .	4	4	5	2
Second quality	4	0	4	6	Neat em. porkers	5	6	6	2
Pr. coarse woolled	4	8	5	4					

Suckling calves, 00s. to 00s., and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Oct. 24.—There has been a moderate supply of meat in the market. The trade has been slow, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 100 packages from Harlingen, 13 Rotterdam, 511 Hamburg, and 25 Tonning.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef .	3	4	to 3	8	Prime ditto . .	4	8	5	0
Middling ditto .	3	8	4	0	Veal	4	8	5	0
Prime large do. .	4	4	4	8	Large pork . .	0	0	0	0
Do. small do. .	4	10	5	2	Small pork . .	5	0	5	8
Inf. mutton . .	3	4	3	8	Lamb	0	0	0	0
Middling ditto .	3	8	4	0					

PROVISIONS, Monday, Oct. 24.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 560 firkins butter and 2,273 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 23,802 packages butter, and 880 bales bacon. In the Irish butter market there was more business done last week in fine fresh parcels, and for such improved prices were obtained. Foreign in good demand, and prices improved 4s. to 8s. per cwt.; best Dutch 134s. to 104s. The bacon market was firm at an advance of 2s. per cwt. for Irish and 4s. for Hamburg, owing to the supplies of the latter being checked, the Prussian Government making purchases at Hamburg. The replies to the tenders for the Government Provision Contract for the supply of the Navy with pork were received on Wednesday last for 5,600 tierces and 5,600 barrels, prices averaging from £3 6s. for tierces and £5 5s. for barrels.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Oct. 24.—Since our last report our market has assumed a firmer tone, especially for choice hops, in which considerable business has been transacted at slightly advanced rates. Quantities of medium grades are still pressed on the boards for sale, and barely realise recent quotations. The trade for foreign hops rules dull, the imports up to the present time amounting to 3,226 bales. Latest advices from New York report the growth nearly equal to last year's quantity, but inferior in quality, only a small portion being really fine. The market as dull, with a slight decline in prices. Mid and East Kents, 2l. 10s., 4l. 4s. to 7l. 0s.; Wealds 2l. 10s., 3l. 10s., to 4l. 0s.; Sussex, 2l. 5s., 2l. 14s. to 3l. 10s; Farnham and country, 3l. 15s., 4l. 15s., to 6l 6s.; Olds, 1l. 0s., 1l. 15s., to 2l. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Oct. 24.—These markets have been fairly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been steady at our quotations. The import in London last week comprised 3 casks 3 bags from Hamburg, 14 barrels from Bremen and 3 hampers 19 packages from Rotterdam. English Regents, 45s. to 80s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 50s. to 80s. per ton; Rocks, 40s. to 55s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Oct. 24.—English cloverseed comes out slowly, and make previous rates. From common to prime there is a large range in prices. Foreign samples were held for quite as much money. In Trefoil not much passing, and no quotable change took place. New white mustardseed was offered on former terms, and was rather more inquired for. Winter tares were placed in small lots, at very moderate rates. English canaryseed realised former rates, with a steady sale.

WOOL, Monday, Oct. 24.—The wool market has been devoid of any feature of interest. The demand has been less active. Nevertheless, a fair quantity of lustre and demi-lustre sorts has been disposed of at full prices. Other qualities have been neglected.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Oct. 22.—Large arrivals are to hand, with scarcely any variation in prices. New oranges from Lisbon are among the latest arrivals. Amongst flowers we have Fuchsias, Bouvardias, Pompon Chrysanthemums, Mignonette, and a few good Heaths.

OILS, Monday, Oct. 24.—Linseed oil has been in moderate request. Rape has been firm. Other oils have been steady in value, but the demand for them has not been active.

TALLOW, Monday, Oct. 17.—The market has been firm. Y.C., on the spot, 44s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Oct. 24.—Market firm, at an advance on last day's rates. Hettons Wallsend, 19s. 3d.; Hettons Lyons, 17s. 3d.; Haswell, 19s. 3d.; Heugh Hall, 18s. 6d.; Kelloe, 18s. 3d.; Lambton, 18s. 9d.; Holywell Main, 17s. 3d.; Hartleys, 16s. 9d.; Tees, 19s. Ships fresh arrived, 45. Ships left from last day, nil. Ships at sea, 70.

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BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT	£5	0
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BRACELETS, NINEVEH, „	£10	0
BRACELETS, SAXON, „	£15	0
BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, „	£2	10
BROOCHES, NINEVEH, „	£3	0
BROOCHES, SAXON, „	£4	0
BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, „	£5	0
CHAINS, PRINCESS, „	£2	0
CHAINS, CYLINDER, „	£3	0
CHAINS, CURB, „	£4	0
CHAINS, CABLE, „	£5	0
EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „	£1	10
EARRINGS, SAXON, „	£2	5
EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „	£3	5
EARRINGS, NINEVEH, „	£4	10
LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „	£1	0
LOCKETS, CORDED, „	£2	10
LOCKETS, CROSS, „	£4	0
GOLD WATCHES, LADIES',	£8	8
GOLD WATCHES, „	£10	10
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£15	15
GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£11	11
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£16	16
GOLD WATCHES, „	£20	0
GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS	£15	10
GOLD WATCHES, „	£22	0
GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£18	18
CLOCKS, CARRIAGE,	£5	0
CLOCKS, „ (STRIKING),	£7	7
CLOCKS, „ „ (ON GONG),	£12	12
CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE),	£4	0
CLOCKS, „ „	£10	12
CLOCKS, „ „	£14	0
CLOCKS, „ (ORMOLU),	£10	0
CLOCKS, „ „	£15	0

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1. M. H. Butcher 2771
2. A. D. Drew 2479
3. J. C. O. Bassett 2338

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Registered under the Companies' Acts, 1862 and 1867, with Limited Liability.

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Du Pre Thornton, Esq., Union Club, Trafalgar-square, and "The Heath," Hertford.
C. Titian Hawkins, Esq., Summertown, Oxford.
C. M. Hughes, Esq., Dartmouth Park-road, Highgate.
Hammerton Crump, Esq., Director of the Tuolomne Gold Mining Company (Limited).
Capt. H. Barry Barnham, Gloucester-place, Hyde-park.
Alfred Bryant, Esq., Director of the Tahiti Cotton and Coffee Plantation Company (Limited).

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London and County Bank, Lombard-street, London, and its Branches.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Field, Wood, and Haynes, 9, Warnford court, London, E.C.

SOLICITOR.

C. E. Shea, Esq., 36, King William-street, London, E.C.
Offices:—8, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

Peru, from the time of the Incas to the present, has been justly celebrated for its immense mineral wealth, and especially for the extraordinary richness of its Silver Mines.

This company has been formed to rework some of the richest mines in that country, and which are situated on the property known as the Mineral Hacienda, San José de Bellavista, two leagues distant from Oyon, in the province of Cajatambo, and about thirty leagues from the port of Huacho, which will shortly be within a few hours' communication by railway with Lima.

The Hacienda (or farm) is very extensive, having houses, fields, rights of pasture, good roads, abundance of water (there being a river through the property), and is well situated on the main road, and in the centre of the mines, affording every convenience for an extensive mining establishment, for which it has been used during the last 300 years.

The mines leased to this Company are eight in number, one of which is that celebrated silver mine, "Candelaria," from which immense riches have been taken from comparatively shallow workings, the deepest point being only ten fathoms below the adit level. The official paper, "Mercurio Peruano," 1792, published in the time of the Spanish Viceroys, relates that the mine "'Candelaria' produces immense quantities of very rich ore, comprising native, sulphuret, and oxide of silver; and is so rich, that it pays well to employ 1,400 Indians in only carrying out on their backs the water out of this mine."

The richness of the lode is also verified by examination of the waste heaps of ore, estimated at thousands of tons, and which will give nearly sixty ounces of silver to the ton; ore now in London, broken from the lode, contains over 2,000 ounces to the ton, of the value of £300 per ton. This mine can be at once easily and economically worked by means of a turbine and pump only.

In 1789, it is stated in official documents recorded in Lima that Don Jose Elias de Arbeiza gave $30,000 for a share; and in 1827, Edward M'Call, Esq., of the house of Alsopp and Co., Lima, gave many thousand pounds for the freehold of the Hacienda and mines, and immediately commenced an adit level to unwater this mine. The works were completed at a cost of nearly $10,000; but for the want of engineering skill the level was not kept, and so left the bottom of the mine undrained for about ten fathoms. At this time ore was raised containing 3,000 ounces of silver to the ton.

The War of Independence taking away the workmen, the mines were stopped, and the workings have not since been resumed. There is now perfect security for person and property, the miners are exempt from military service, and mining is specially encouraged and protected by the Government.

In addition to this celebrated "Candelaria" Mine, there are seven other rich mines of copper and lead, containing from 100 to 2,000 ounces of silver to the ton, and 60 per cent. of copper and 50 per cent. of lead, and known as

"La Santissima Trinidad,"
"El Nino Perdido,"
"Asumpcion,"
"Transito,"
"San Francisco de Paula,"
"La Magdalena,"
"La Despreciada,"

which, together with all buildings, corrales, erections, works, watercourses, rights of water and road, have been acquired by this Company on lease for the term of twenty years, commencing April, 1870, for the sum of £15,000, one-half of which will be taken in shares by the vendor. The Company is not subject to any Royalty. The rental is very low, being only $250 for the first five years, $500 for the second five years, $750 for the third five years, and for the remaining five years $1,250 per annum.

Coal of good quality can be delivered at the Hacienda, at 10s. per ton, from a large vein in the neighbourhood. The Farm will at all times provide abundance of fodder for the mules, and the back carriage of salt provisions, for the well-known mines of "Cerro de Pasco," will nearly defray the down cost. Cerro de Pasco is about forty miles beyond Bellavista; labour is aboundant and cheap; miners are paid 2s. 3d., and labourers 2s. per diem.

It is intended to reduce the poor ores into a rich silver regulus, to be shipped with richer ores to England. In the first instance a sufficient number of mules will be purchased for the delivery of thirty tons of ore and regulus per month at the port of shipment. As the produce will not be less than 1,000 ounces of silver to the ton, the value of which will amount to £7,500 per month, there will be a profit of at least £4,000 per month after paying all costs and charges.

The richness and abundance of the ores, and the facility with which they can be extracted, combined with the low rate of wages, and the proximity of coal for smelting, enabled the Company to work these valuable mines with an almost nominal capital.

The operations will be conducted by a mining captain of experience, and will be controlled by the resident Director in Lima, whose local knowledge, acquired by a residence of several years in Peru, in which country he occupies a high and influential position, will be of the highest practical importance.

The agreement, samples of the ores, Articles of the Association, and all particulars, may be seen at the Offices of the Company, where Prospectus and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained; and at the Bankers', Brokers', and Solicitor's.

AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE.

Dated Oct. 17, 1870, is made between David Stevens of the first part, and the Company of the second part.

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, HORNSEY RISE, NEAR HIGHGATE, N.

The THIRTEENTH HALF-YEARLY MEETING of GOVERNORS will be held at the CITY TERMINUS HOTEL, CANNON-STREET, on THURSDAY, November 17th, 1870, to ELECT TEN INFANTS from the List of Candidates, the Two Girls; who receive the highest number of votes to be retained until Sixteen years of age.

ROBERT JONES, Esq., Sheriff of London and Middlesex will preside.

The Chair will be taken at Twelve o'clock, and the Poll will be closed at Two o'clock precisely, after which hour no Votes can be recorded.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

Offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C., October 11th, 1870.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. Beds, from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

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Visitors to London will meet with a comfortable home at the above Establishment, which is pleasantly and centrally situated within five minutes' walk of the General Post Office and one minute from the Aldersgate-street station of the Metropolitan Railway.

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HALF TERM will COMMENCE MONDAY, Nov. 7.

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Drawing and Painting	J. Hoch, Esq.
Dancing and Calisthenics	Mdlle. L'Augléo.
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Order of your Chemist, Grocer, or Chandler, and insist on using no others. The Patentees, J. C. and J. FIELD, Upper Marsh, Lambeth, London, who supply the Trade only, will be happy to answer any inquiry as to the nearest agency where these wonderful candles can be obtained.

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Is recommended by the Faculty as the best food for INFANTS, as it is very easy of digestion, and contains in due proportion all the substances required for healthy growth.

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Is acknowledged to be the most wholesome and nutritious diet for CHILDREN, its richness in earthy phosphates ensuring healthy development of the teeth and bony frame.

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Is recommended for the use of INVALIDS, as far more sustaining than Arrowroot, Corn Flour, &c., which are often rejected, when the Entire Wheat Flour is taken with relish.

Sold retail by Family Grocers, Chemists, &c., in 3d., 6d., and 1s. packets, and 3s. tins.

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INVENTORS AND PATENTEES OF **Rice Starch**, THE STRONGEST AND PUREST MADE.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR,
PREPARED FROM RICE,
the staple food of more than Three Hundred Millions (300,000,000) of people, is unequalled for Blanc-Mange, Custards, Puddings, Cakes, Soups, &c., and is the most wholesome and easily-digestible Food for Children and Invalids.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes a delicious Blanc-Mange and Baked Pudding.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes nice Infants' Food, and for thickening Milk.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes the best Cup-Pudding, and most delicious Custard.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Is the best article ever offered to the public.
Sold by all respectable Grocers, &c.
In 1lb., ½lb., and ¼lb. Packets.

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EDWIN LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S., says:—
"Rice-Flour is Corn-Flour, and I regard this preparation of Messrs. Colman's as superior to anything of the kind now before the public."

SHERIDAN MUSPRAT, M.D., Professor at the Liverpool College of Chemistry, writes:—
"I can highly recommend it as a palatable and very digestible and nutritious food."

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CAUTION.—Require Baron Liebig's signature on every Jar and Tin.
5lb. Tins supplied in enormous quantities to both French and German troops in the field, and this size specially recommended to Relief Committees.

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BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR.

Opiates, Narcotics, and Squills, are too often invoked to give relief in Coughs, Colds, and all Pulmonary Diseases. Instead of such fallacious remedies, which yield momentary relief at the expense of enfeebling the digestive organs, and thus increasing that debility which lies at the root of the malady, modern science points to CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR as the true remedy.

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Dr. Rooke, Scarborough, author of the "Anti-Lancet," says:—"I have repeatedly observed how very rapidly and invariably it subdued Cough, Pain, and Irritation of the Chest in cases of Pulmonary Consumption, and I can, with he greatest confidence, recommend it as a most valuable adjunct to an other-wise strengthening treatment for this disease."

This medicine, which is free from opium and squills, not only allays the local irritation, but improves digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence it is used with the most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, Coughs, Influenza, Night Sweats of Consumption, Quinsy, and all affections of the throat and chest. Sold by all respectable Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers, in bottles at 1s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each; and wholesale by JAS. M. CROSBY, Chemist, Scarborough.

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COAL.—GEORGE J. COCKERELL and COMPANY, Established 1838.—Best Coals only.—Cash, 25s. G. J. C. and Co. sell no other than the best Wallsend Coals, which they believe to be the cleanest, the most durable, and the cheapest in the end for all domestic purposes. Vendors to Her Majesty, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.—13, Cornhill; Eaton Wharf, Pimlico (office next to the Grosvenor Hotel); Purfleet Wharf Earl-street, Blackfriars; Sunderland Wharf, Peckham; Durham Wharf, Wandsworth (Office, 108, High-street); High-level Station, Crystal Palace; also at Brighton at local prices.

COALS. — LEA and CO.'S PRICES. — Hetton or Lambton Wall's-end, by screw steamers and railway, 24s.; Hartlepool, 23s.; Best Wigan, 22s.; best Silkstone, 22s.; new Silkstone, 21s.; Clay-cross, 22s. and 19s.; Primrose, 20s.; Barnsley, 19s.; best Derby, 19s.; Kitchen, 18s.; Cobbles, 17s.; Hartley, 17s.; Nuts, 15s.; Tanfield Moor, 20s.; small, 12s. Coke, 14s. per 12 sacks. Net cash. Delivered thoroughly screened. Depots, Highbury and Highgate, N.; Kingsland, N.E.; Beauvoir Wharf, Kingsland-road; Great Northern Railway Stations, King's cross and Holloway; and 4 and 5 Wharves, Regent's-park-basin. No Agents.

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Improves the appetite, and aids digestion.
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ASK FOR LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE.

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A DELICATE AND CLEAR COMPLEXION,

With a Delightful and Lasting Fragrance, by using
THE CELEBRATED
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J. C. and J. FIELD, UPPER MARSH, LAMBETH.
Order of your Chemist, Grocer, or Chandler.

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The celebrated old IRISH WHISKY gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome.

Sold in bottles 3s. 8d. each, at the retail houses in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill-street, London W.

Observe the red seal, pink label, and cork, branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

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Edwards, Sanger, Butler and Crispe, and Thompson; and Retail of all Chemists and Druggists.

CORNS and BUNIONS.—A gentleman many years tormented with Corns, will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their complete removal in a short period, without pain or any inconvenience.—Forward address, on a stamped envelope, to F. Kingston, Esq., Church-street, Ware, Herts.

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NEW AUTUMN STOCK
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Silks, Mantles, Shawls, Furs, Costumes, Skirts, French Merinoes, Reppe, Flannels, Linens, Hosiery, Gloves, Ribbons, Lace, Trimmings, Fancy Goods, &c.

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For damp weather, 21s.; Kid double-soled Boots, 16s. 6d.; Velvet Flannel-lined Boots, 5s. 6d.; Velvet Slippers, 3s. 6d. Illustrated Catalogues, post free, with notice of convenient arrangements for Country Residents.

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On the following Tuesday, Nov. 1, Mr. J. LEWIS PEARSE, from New College, will be ORDAINED in Burdett-road Congregational Church, to the Ministry of the Branch Church of Stepney Meeting assembling in Burdett-road. The Revs. Dr. Halley, John Kennedy, W. Bevan, and others, will take part in the service. To begin at Half-past Six.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

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